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'ARAFAT MEETING WITH PREMIER AL-HUSS REPORTED

JN171850Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1800 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Text] A meeting was held last night between Abu 'Ammar and Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. The meeting was attended by brother Abu Jihad, member of the Fatah Central Committee and member of the General Command of Al-'Asifah forces; Staff Brig Gen Abu al-Walid, director of the military operations room of the joint forces; and brother Basil 'Aqil.

Following the meeting, which lasted for two hours, Basil 'Aqil said that the PLO commander in chief conveyed the view of the PLO on the speech of President Sarkis the day before yesterday, especially that part dealing with the Palestinians. Brother Abu 'Ammar found it appropriate to convey the PLO's view on this subject personally and directly to the prime minister because of the current circumstances in Lebanon, believing that only dialog can clarify issues and restore things into their natural course.

FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETS UNDER 'ARAFAT

JN161742Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday chaired a meeting of the Central Committee of the Palestinian national movement Fatah. The Central Committee studied the current situation and developments on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels. The radio correspondent has learned that the conferees also reviewed Palestinian organizational and military issues, especially the issue of national unity, and studied the steps taken in this respect.

Meeting Resumes

JN161842Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1800 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpt] The Central Committee of the national Palestinian movement Fatah resumed its meeting today in continuation of the meeting held last night attended by brother Abu 'Ammar, commander in chief of the revolution forces.

LEBANESE NATIONALISTS, 'ARAFAT HOLD MEETING

JN141741Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 14 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The unified command of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist movement held a meeting late last night under the chairmanship of brother Abu 'Ammar. The meeting was attended by the secretaries general of the Palestinian revolution groups and the members of the Executive Committee of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

Our radio correspondent has learned that the meeting discussed the current situation in Lebanon and the Arab area and the problems with the UN emergency forces in southern Lebanon.

Meeting Resumes

JN141938Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1800 GMT 14 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The Palestinian-Lebanese joint command this evening held another meeting to resume the talks begun last night under brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

The meeting was attended by representatives from various revolutionary groups and by the members of the Executive Committee of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Lebanese National Front.

The meeting discussed the current Lebanese and Arab situations and the problems created by some unruly elements who clashed with the UNIFIL forces in the south. The joint Palestinian-Lebanese command took a number of firm decisions and measures to prevent the recurrence of such irresponsible actions and to punish the culprits.

PLO SPOKESMAN ON SOUTHERN LEBANON INCIDENTS

JN141744Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 14 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Commenting on the detention of a number of UN soldiers in southern Lebanon, a responsible source in the PLO has stated the following:

The detention was carried out by the followers of Abu al-'Abbas, under his personal leadership and in accordance with instructions from outside sources. The Palestinian revolution forces contained the incident and tracked down the perpetrators.

In the meantime a patrol of the Palestinian armed struggle command [fedayeen military police] this morning came under machinegun fire while on duty in the Al-Buss refugee camp near Tyre. It was discovered that the fire was opened by elements of the Palestinian liberation front [pro-Iraq Arab Liberation Front] led by Abu al-'Abbas. The Palestinian armed struggle command is now taking control of the situation in the camp.

The rumors about a clash between the UN forces and the Palestinian revolution forces are not true.

Pro-Iraqi Front Comments

JN141824Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 14 July--The Palestinian liberation front has stated that its positions in southern Lebanon, particularly in the Al-Buss area north of Tyre, have been the target of two attacks launched by a group of what the front terms Palestinian rightists.

An official spokesman for the front stated that the attacking group used 106-mm artillery fire and machineguns. He stated that the front's casualties were one martyr from the popular struggle front and one wounded from the Palestinian liberation front. The spokesman stated that a number of the front's positions in Sidon, Abu al-Aswad and the Ar-Rashidiyah camp were subjected last night to similar attacks by rightist groups. The spokesman warned that these same rightist groups are preparing to launch similar attacks in northern Lebanon.

In another development, the Palestinian liberation front violently attacked the Palestinian news agency for having accused the front yesterday evening of detaining UNIFIL elements. The front described this as an attempt to divide the Palestinian ranks and cause fighting among Palestinian groups.

'ARAFAT'S ENVOY MEETS WITH PDRY CHAIRMAN

JN141716Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 14 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Brother Hani al-Hasan, brother Abu 'Ammar's political adviser and personal envoy to Aden, yesterday met with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo and chairman of the PDRY Presidential Council. He was accompanied by brother Sakhr, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council.

The two Palestinian leaders held cordial talks with the PDRY chairman on a number of issues of interest to the PDRY and Palestine and also on the general Arab situation, including the recent events in Yemen and the current Middle East situation.

Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad praised the militant stand of the Palestinian revolution under brother Abu 'Ammar in support of the PDRY in its struggle to confront the plots and aggression against the Yemeni people. The PDRY chairman asserted that despite the rapacious propaganda campaigns and plots against it, the PDRY will persevere in not replying to the provocations aimed at disturbing the situation in the region. This stand stems from its desire to maintain concerted Arab efforts to face the imperialist and Zionist enemy so as to fulfill the victory of the Arab people of Palestine in regaining the occupied Arab territories. The PDRY chairman affirmed his country's support for the Palestinian revolution.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Salih Muti', Politburo member, member of the Presidential Council and foreign minister; Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, Central Committee member and minister of communications; and brother 'Abbas Zaki, PLO representative in Aden.

It will be recalled that brothers Hani al-Hasan and Sakhr arrived in Aden yesterday as a part of the mediation efforts by the Palestinian revolution between San'a' and Aden to end the tense situation between the two parts of Yemen.

FATAH SENDS MEMORANDUM TO IRAQI GOVERNMENT

JN1620477 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1820 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpts] Brothers, the following is the text of the memorandum addressed to the Iraqi Government by the Palestinian national liberation movement--Fatah in reply to a statement published in the newspaper AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI and attributed to an Iraqi official government and party spokesman:

In Issue No 62 published on 15 July 1978, the newspaper AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI published an unsigned statement attributed to an Iraqi official government and party spokesman. The statement includes both ridiculous and sad allegations which are not only untrue in their details and references, but are also untrue because they refer to imaginary events.

The statement by the Iraqi Government and party spokesman points out that Iraq offered economic, military and financial aid, as well as supplies to the PLO. This aid, the statement says, amounted to millions of dollars, in addition to 4,700 tons of foodstuffs and $15 million offered after the southern Lebanese war. [passage indistinct]

Immediately after assuming power, the regime's interference in the Fatah movement began as follows:

1. Closing the offices of the Fatah movement in Iraq with the exception of the Baghdad bureau.

2. Confiscating 40 percent of the contributions of the Iraqi people to the armed struggle bureau which was established by the Iraqi regime under the slogan of supporting the Palestinian revolution. Then they increased this to 60 percent until eventually all the popular contributions were confiscated.

3. The Iraqi regime confiscated a large amount of arms and ammunition contributed by the friendly Chinese people to the Palestinian revolution. These arms are enough for 15,000 soldiers and are valued at $50 million.

4. The regime confiscated thousands of tons of foodstuffs and enough military clothing to clad 30,000 fighters. These supplies arrived for the Palestinian revolution as a gift from the friendly Chinese people. They are worth more than $30 million.

5. The Iraqi regime [lengthy passage indistinct]

10. The Iraqi regime exploits the poor Palestinian students in Europe, the United States, the Far East and the Arab countries. This is done by giving money to the students and forcing them to either join the Abu Nidal group or Iraqi intelligence. [words indistinct] to fall in the snare of the Iraqi intelligence and work against the PLO, Fatah and the Arab states. This was the case in the assassination of Sayf ibn Ghabbash in Abu Dhabi, the Samiramis Hotel operation in Damascus, the Intercontinental operation in Jordan. [words indistinct] the Larnaka operation, and finally the assassinations of Sa'id Hammami and 'Ali Nasir Yasin.

DPFLP MEMBERS REPORTED MURDERED IN LEBANON

JN151949Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Sources of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine have said that the day before yesterday reactionary Palestinian forces assassinated three of the front's elements in southern Lebanon. The front said that while distributing supplies to positions of the southern forces, a vehicle was stopped in the 'Adlun area on the Tyre-Sidon highway by some dubious elements under the orders of reactionary Palestinian forces. Three unarmed persons in the vehicle were ordered out. They were killed and their bodies were mutilated by the assailants. The new crime is part of the campaign to liquidate the revolutionaries and strugglers. This campaign began with the attack on the Fatah bases in the south and included the clashes of the Al-Baddawi camp and the Tyre and Sidon incidents.

It may be recalled that this method of killing the three strugglers is the same one used by the monarchy in Amman during the September 1970 massacres when the forces of the monarchy attacked the Amman hospitals, especially the Al-Ashrafiyah Hospital, and mutilated the bodies of the strugglers with axes and bayonets. This is also the same method practiced by the isolationist forces during their attack on Tal za-Za'tar.

ARAB LEAGUE ON FACTFINDING COMMISSION TO YEMEN

NC161600Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1524 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 July--The Arab League General Secretariat today continued its consultations with the YAR and PDRY governments regarding the dispatch of an Arab factfinding committee to investigate the conditions on the border between the two countries. Arab League Assistant Secretary General Dr Muhammad al-Farra said today that the Arab League has received a note from the PDRY approving the dispatch of the committee, provided that the decision which the Arab League's council adopted against South Yemen at its recent meeting is reconsidered first.

It has been learned that the Arab League secretary general, Mahmud Riyad, is studying the idea of dispatching a committee of the General Secretariat to attempt to contain the crisis along the border between the two countries and prevent the deterioration of the situation between them. The Arab League had carried out a similar mission between the two parts of Yemen in 1973.

VOP: PHALANGISTS KILL MOSLEM LEBANESE SOLDIERS

JN141803Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 14 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The isolationist gangs have reemphasized the communal identity of the existing army; namely, that it is an extension of the communal isolationist militias. The isolationist gangs which belong to the Phalangists and the Sham'unites and which are part of the Lebanese Army have killed a number of Moslem soldiers stationed in police barracks. One of them was identified as Private Ahmad Faraj from the town of 'Ayta ash-Sha'b in southern Lebanon.

To cover up the massacre, the cause of death of these Moslem soldiers was falsified by informing the family of Ahmad Faraj that he had drowned. The family was asked to sign a statement to this effect. [words indistinct] After the autopsy, it was found that he had been shot in the head. This outrageous murder angered the people in the town.

The newspaper AL-WATAN said that about 80 recruits fled from the Al-Fayyadiyah barracks during the recent clashes for fear that the isolationists would harrass them because they refused to fight against the Syrian forces.

PFLP SENDS CONGRATULATIONS CABLE TO IRAQI LEADERS

JN152012Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 15 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 July--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has expressed its appreciation of the great stand adopted by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party toward the conspiracies being concocted against the Palestinian Arab people and their armed struggle.

This is contained in a cable sent by George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP Central Committee, to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and the Revolution Command members on the occasion of the 14 and 17 July revolutions.

The cable further states that the imperialist conspiracies make it imperative for all Arab nationalist and progressive forces to close ranks within the framework of a single Arab progressive front and to adopt a progressive political program. This program must mobilize the Arab nation's potentials and capabilities to enable it to oppose the conspiracies of the reactionary Arab rightwing, which is presently working to implement U.S. imperialist projects, using the dispersion existing among the ranks of Arab progressive forces to their benefit. These reactionary Arabs also aim at striking at all the current progressive changes in progressive Arab countries which are hostile to imperialism and reaction.

The cable states that on this occasion the Palestinian revolution is looking for Iraq's support to achieve all of the revolution's objectives, which consist of foiling capitulatory settlement conspiracies, continuing the armed struggle and setting up a democratic socialist society on the remains of the racist and Zionist entity on our occupied territories.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM ATTACKS EGYPTIAN PRESS

LD1410Z1Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 12 Jul 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "The Egyptian Papers and Sabah al-Ahmad"]

[Text] If the Egyptian journal OCTOBER was not particularly known for its very close ties with the ruling authority, we would not have paid attention to what it writes about. But OCTOBER, like the rest of the Egyptian papers, is government controlled. What is published in them has been released by the censorship and, therefore, is official.

In its recent issue, OCTOBER magazine wrote nonsense and absurdities about Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad simply because he adopted a farsighted attitude toward the issue of the Aden Government at the Arab League meeting.

This is because OCTOBER, following the logic of the Egyptian policy, does not recognize an independent opinion nor the right of any Arab to oppose a policy desired by Cairo.

Therefore, despite all that Kuwait has done for Cairo, this paper, which is very close to the center of power, accuses the chief of Kuwaiti diplomacy of favoring what it called his personal interest at the expense of Arab interests.

And because concepts have become blurred these days, we do not know what concepts Cairo has in mind when it talks about Arab interests. If Cairo turns its back to all the Arabs and goes to Israel, then certainly it will not spare Kuwait and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad from its attack.

This is being done in repayment for Kuwait's enthusiasm and efforts for Arab solidarity, forgiving Cairo its sin and its massive aid to the Egyptian economy as well as the banning of Kuwaiti papers whenever they criticize the Egyptian leadership's Arab policy.

While we do all this we find that the Egyptian papers attack our leadership and level false and unfounded accusations against it.

The Egyptian magazine says that it was surprised by the attitude of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad toward the Arab League's resolutions regarding the Aden Government. But it was not "surprised" by the Egyptian-Israeli meetings nor does it see anything objectionable about the continuing meetings between Egyptian and Israeli officials, while no such meetings take place between Cairo and Arab officials.

All this is not surprising. But that Shayk Sabah al-Ahmad should stand up and call upon the Arab League to show restraint and not to push Aden to the brink--this is viewed as surprising and as a personal choice involving "personal commercial interests of Shaykh Sabah."

In any case we are not astonished, because we know that Cairo is most skillful when the matter concerns raising disputes with the Arabs. Indeed, it shows such toughness and deep hatred for them that it hurts.

Otherwise, would such "outbursts" occur had they not been the result of pent-up feelings ready to explode at any time?

We know Sabah al-Ahmad, his integrity and loyalty to his nation and Arabism. All Arabs know Sabah al-Ahmad, his bold national stands and his numerous initiatives to bring about harmony and unite the Arabs. Therefore, Kuwait will not be affected by whatever OCTOBER states. Also, Sabah al-Ahmad is not in need of a testimony from OCTOBER, for the man has historically taken brave stands, particularly toward sisterly Egypt.

In Kuwait we speak with an Arab and national conscience and, therefore, we will not be affected by such campaigns. Nevertheless, we call upon the government not to be content only with asking for an explanation.

SAUDI ARABIA

U.S. UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ARRIVES

LD171940Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1843 GMT 17 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpts] Jidda--Mr David Newsom, the American under secretary of state for political affairs, arrived in Jidda this evening on a visit to the kingdom of several days.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, will meet Mr David Newsom tomorrow to discuss bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East and certain international issues.

Meets With Sa'ud

LD180903Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0732 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Jidda--At 1000 today Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, had a meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Jidda with David Newsom, U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, who is currently on a visit to the kingdom. The U.S. official arrived in Jidda last night on a few days visit to the kingdom.

DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT GOULED ARRIVES IN JIDDA 16 JULY

LD161002Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0450 GMT 16 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Jidda, 16 July, SNA--His Highness Hassan Gouled, president of the Republic of Djibouti, arrived in Jidda early today for a 1-day visit. His highness is expected to leave Jidda tomorrow for Khartoum to attend the African summit meeting due to open tomorrow in the Sudanese capital. He was welcomed at the airport by the amir of Mecca and senior civilian and military officials of the city.

UAE

PRESIDENT SHAYKH ZAYID RECEIVES OMANI ENVOY

JN171123Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1024 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Al-Khaznah, 17 July--This morning, His Highness the President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received His Excellency 'Umar az-Zawawi, adviser to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman, at Al-Khaznah Palace. The meeting was attended by His Highness Brig Gen Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid, commander in chief of the armed forces, and His Excellency Surur ibn Muhammad, chief of the Office of His Highness the President.

His Excellency 'Umar az-Zawawi said after the meeting that he conveyed a letter to his highness the president from his brother Sultan Qabus dealing with a number of topics of mutual concern to the two fraternal countries. His Excellency az-Zawawi emphasized that there was complete agreement of viewpoints on the issues discussed during the meeting. He added that his highness the president gave him a reply to convey to his brother Sultan Qabus.

PETROLEUM, SOLAR ENERGY COOPERATION WITH FRANCE CONSIDERED

JN150935Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0850 GMT 15 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 15 July--His Highness Shaykh Tahnun ibn Muhammad, representative of the amir in the Eastern Province of the UAE and chairman of the board of directors of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, met this morning with French Ambassador to the UAE Jean-Claude Quisset.

Following the meeting, Guisset stated that he discussed various aspects of cooperation between the two countries with regard to petroleum, solar energy and agriculture with His Highness Shaykh Tahnun. He added that practical studies and measures are being conducted to develop cooperation between the UAE and France in all fields.

YEMEN--PDRY

MUHAMMAD CONGRATULATES YAR PRESIDENT ON ELECTION

LD171926Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Presidential Council and Council of Ministers, has sent a cable to brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces in the northern part of the homeland. Here is the text:

On the occasion of your assumption of the presidential responsibilities of the republic and of the general command of the armed forces, on my own behalf and on behalf of the members of the Presidential Council I am pleased to convey to you our warm congratulations with the hope that your assumption of this responsibility under the difficult conditions facing our Yemeni people will be a model for tackling problems responsibly and with understanding in order to serve the interests of our Yemeni people, their unity and national sovereignty.

We wish you success in the service of righteousness, interest and progress of our great Yemeni people.

EGYPT, UAE, TUNISIA MAINTAIN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH PDRY

NC180905Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 18 July--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN reports today that Egypt, the UAE and Tunisia are maintaining their economic relations with the PDRY, following the Arab League Council's resolution.

Quoting well-informed sources in Cairo, the paper says that the three states consider the Arab League's resolution from the legal aspect as a recommendation for freezing economic relations with the PDRY. Freezing means not promoting relations and not severing or abolishing previous agreements.

The paper says that Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has informed the Arab League that Egypt has decided not to withdraw Egyptian experts and teachers from the PDRY.

It is known that Egypt has been providing the PDRY with teachers and technicians, while the UAE has been providing financial assistance, along with other aid for education and health from other gulf states.

YEMEN--YAR

SALIH TAKES CONSTITUTIONAL OATH, OUTLINES POLICY

JN180903Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0832 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 18 July--Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, took the constitutional oath today.

President Salih emphasized the principles of the 26 September revolution and the need to achieve its objectives, continue the development program and sponsor the cooperative and reform movement. He said that he will pursue a policy which averts any dangers to Yemen but which does not prejudice its rights.

President Salih said that he will seek to develop Yemen's relations with fraternal and friendly countries and work for the Palestine question and other liberation issues on the basis of the Arab League and UN charters.

The constitutional oath ceremony was attended by Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, the ministers, senior army officers and members of the diplomatic corps in San'a'.

The INA correspondent has learned that the Yemeni Government will tender its resignation to President Salih today in accordance with the constitution.

AL-'ARASHI OPENS ASSEMBLY SESSION FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

JN171500Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Speech delivered by YAR Presidential Council Chairman al-'Arashi on 17 July to open the special session of the People's Assembly for the election of a new president of the republic--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God and the people we open this session.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The blessings of God and peace be upon his honest apostle. Do not regard those who were killed while on God's path as dead. Verily, they are alive and well in paradise. God is great and truthful.

Brothers, members of the exalted constituent People's Assembly; brothers, members of the armed forces and security forces; brothers inside and outside Yemen: I greet all of you and address you on the recent events and the results of the terrible and treacherous plot which led to the martyrdom of the leader of democracy, President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, a martyr of peace, love, security and equality, may God rest his soul in peace.

Brothers, members of the exalted constituent People's Assembly; brothers in the armed forces and the security forces; brothers in North and South Yemen, inside and outside the country, the Aden rulers have attempted to acquit themselves of the savage murder of our leader, Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. Their attempts come after the liquidation of Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali. The Yemeni masses are alert and are aware of all these criminal deeds. The committee formed under the brother minister of justice conducted its investigation and found that all indications point to the Aden rulers as the perpetrators of this crime--a crime which has no parallel in the history of nations and peoples, whether in war or in peace.

On behalf of the People's Assembly; on behalf of my brother members of the Presidential Council; on behalf of the army and the security forces; on behalf of the Yemeni people, I express my thanks and gratitude to the countries who stood by our side in the defense of right, justice and peace and who expressed their wrath and anger against the traitors and criminals who want to turn the southern region into a base from which to export death to our friends and brothers. This comes at a time when we are in need of unity and of pooling our material and human resources to face an enemy who is plotting against the entire Arab nation.

We must value our role and bravely and sincerely bear our responsibility in order to preserve our revolution and its achievements, particularly the presidential system. We must preserve our independence, sovereignty and freedom and also the free democracy which we have chosen as the path of our regime in order to achieve prosperity and progress. I am certain that we will be victorious in defending our country and that defeat will befall our enemies, the enemies of mankind.

May God grant all of us success in serving our nation and country. Peace be upon you.

KAMIL ARRIVES IN LONDON; U.S. OFFICIALS COMMENT

NC171920Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil arrived in London this afternoon at the head of a delegation to attend the London conference attended by the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel and the U.S. secretary of state, which will begin in the county of Kent tomorrow.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials accompanying U.S. President Jimmy Carter on his visit to the FRG today expressed hope that Egypt and Israel will be able to narrow the gap between them during the London conference. The officials added that they hope the conference will result in an agreement by the two sides to hold regular meetings.

Kamil Makes Statement

NC172030Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1954 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[Text] London, 17 July--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has emphasized Egypt's determination to explore all paths leading to the fulfillment of the objectives of all the area's peoples. He said: "We have come here with an open mind and an open heart. We hope that the Israeli Government has the same spirit."

In press statements he made at London's Heathrow Airport, the Egyptian foreign minister explained that the meeting will be convened on the basis of a U.S. initiative in a way compatible with the U.S. efforts to help achieve a just and overall peaceful settlement in the Middle East. He expressed his gratitude for the preparations made to convene the meeting. Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said that if the Israeli Government will act in the same spirit, we will be able to achieve real progress, and consequently the unique opportunity afforded by President as-Sadat's historic initiative will not be lost.

The foreign minister added that peace as well as the establishment of normal neighborly relations and the safeguarding of security for all the parties can be achieved as long as one party does not try to exploit these legitimate hopes while hiding its objectives and ambitions--which conflict with the spirit which we have come here, a spirit symbolized and expressed by President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

The Egyptian foreign minister affirmed that expansionism cannot establish confidence, that the annexation of the territories of other peoples cannot create real or lasting security, and that the violation of the other peoples' sovereignty and rights will definitely lead to frustration and violence.

He said that these fundamental facts will be the guiding principles of this meeting, that failure to respond to these facts will block to the road to peace, and that those responsible for this setback will assume a heavy and extremely serious responsibility before their peoples and before the whole world. The foreign minister added: We pray to God to guide the steps of all of us and to lead us toward an overall and just settlement, lasting peace and prosperity for our peoples.

Answering a question about Egypt's position and the Egyptian proposals, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said that the Egyptian position is based on UN Resolution No 242 and the other UN resolutions which demand that the Palestinian people's legitimate rights be respected and which demand withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied since 1967.

To a question about whether he feels that there has been a change in Israel's position, he said that nothing has happened so far and that the latest test was Israel's reply to the questions by the United States. This reply was "totally negative." The Americans, he said, have told us that another round of talks might facilitate things and it is for this reason that we have come here.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said that Egypt has presented balanced and constructive proposals and that it hopes that the other side will show an understanding and acceptance of these proposals. He affirmed that settlement based on international legality will lead to the achievement of a just and lasting peace.

Answering a question about the issue of security, the Egyptian foreign minister said: "We have our fears on this subject just as they have theirs, and it is possible to reach an agreement in this respect in accordance with the interests of the various parties."

Responding to a question about the next step, he said that he did not know precisely what the next step would be because no real progress has been made. Kamil added: We will continue with the discussions, and it is imperative for Israel to present positive elements. Furthermore, the peace initiative confirms our insistence on achieving peace as well as our respect for all the parties. In light of all these things, it is imperative that Israel withdraw from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and respect the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

When Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil's meeting with the newsmen ended, he and the delegation accompanying him boarded a helicopter for the county of Kent where the conference will be convened.

KAMIL DISCUSSES NONALINEMENT WITH TANJUG

NC172102Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2022 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Belgrade, 17 July--Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has praised the nonalined states, which have always supported the Arab people's rights and their resistance to the Israeli Government's aggressive policies.

In a statement to the Cairo correspondent of the Yugoslav news agency TANJUG, the Egyptian foreign minister affirmed that the nonalined movement has been the most positive and fruitful phenomenon on the international scene since the end of World War II.

He noted that the nonalined movement gained momentum in the wake of the Colombo conference and the number of those supporting its goals increased without the movement losing sight of its main objectives. Those objectives will remain deeply engraved in our mind and conscience, just as they have been engraved in the minds of the pioneering states of this movement--Egypt, India and Yugoslavia--when they first conceived this idea. He praised the stand taken by Yugoslav President Tito as a founder of the nonalined movement, and whose wisdom and foresight have been a permanent source of strength for the movement.

In his statement, the Egyptian minister pointed to the differences among some nonalined states. He expressed regret that some of these states have taken positions conflicting with the movement's philosophy and have resorted to force to resolve these differences. Some states also tried to take advantage of these differences and to intervene on behalf of big powers, which conflicts with and endangers the principles of nonalinement.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil cautioned against these conflicts, describing them as serious developments which should be dealt with at the upcoming Belgrade conference in a manner compatible with the spirit of loyalty to nonalinement.

He also discussed the situation in Africa. He affirmed that the continent can resolve its differences in the real spirit of African brotherhood and nonalinement. In this respect, he condemned the aggressive policies pursued by the racist regimes in Africa. He said that these regimes are behind the problems from which the continent is suffering and are creating the circumstances which the foreign powers are exploiting in Africa.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil asked the conference of nonalined foreign ministers, which will be convened in the Yugoslav capital next week, to concentrate on the principal issues related to peace, justice, equality, independence and prosperity.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT LEAVES FOR KHARTOUM SUMMIT

NC180912Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0908 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 18 July--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat left Janaklis airport at 1045 today for Khartoum to attend the meetings of the African summit conference, which begins in the Sudanese capital tonight.

Press Comments on Summit

NC170848Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] The Cairo newspapers today highlight the report that the African summit conference will begin its meetings in the hall of friendship in the Sudanese capital tomorrow evening. The papers say that President Anwar as-Sadat will deliver a speech at the conference in which he will define Egypt's historical and fateful commitment to complete independence of the African states, bolstering their unity, resisting all forms of foreign interference in their affairs and preventing Africa from suffering the adversities of a cold war.

The papers also point out that President as-Sadat's speech will outline Egypt's stand with regard to the fateful issues, particularly the Middle East problem and the attempts to drag the African states into regional conflicts that serve the interests of foreign forces.

Under the title "Egypt's Message Which As-Sadat Carries for Africa," the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says: President Anwar as-Sadat will arrive in Khartoum tomorrow to attend the African summit conference. The conference will be convening at one of the most serious phases of the African struggle. What has been happening in the African Continent has never constituted a danger close to and advancing on Egypt and threatening its people, as is now happening. There are people in the world who would hate to see Egypt and the Arab world achieve peace, stability and prosperity. They want Egypt and the Arab world to remain always in a state of exhaustion. The aim is clear: Either this advancing threat will preoccupy Egypt from continuing its efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East and divide its thinking and its political and military strategy between two battles, or, should Egypt succeed in achieving peace, it would find itself a party to another major conflict that is imposed on it.

The issue is more serious than we think. Its solution can be achieved through strong Arab solidarity and complete Arab-African solidarity. This is the Egyptian people's message which President as-Sadat carries for Africa.

AS-SADAT APPOINTS MUBARAK ACTING PRESIDENT

NC171949Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1934 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 July--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today issued a republican decree vesting the powers of the president of the republic in Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak during his excellency the president's trip to Khartoum to attend the African summit conference. The summit conference will begin Tuesday.

AL-QAYSUNI, SHUHDI APPOINTED TO ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE

NC161900Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] In his capacity as ASU president, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has issued a decision appointing Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qaysuni, a prominent personality, as a member of the Central Committee. The president also issued a decision appointing 'Abbas Shuhdi, the doyen of the Union of Variety Show Artists, a member of the Central Committee.

SOUTH YEMENI OPPOSITION LEADER ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC161725Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 July--'Abd al-Qawi Makkawi, the leader of the United Patriotic Front of South Yemen, arrived in Cairo this afternoon as part of a 1-month tour, which has already taken him to a number of states in the gulf and the Arabian Peninsula.

'Abd al-Qawi Makkawi said upon arrival that he sent a letter today to the African summit conference which will convene in Khartoum on Tuesday. In his letter he appeals to the African presidents to adopt a quick and serious stand to confront the communist current which is infiltrating South Yemen and posing a threat to the Arabian Peninsula, the Horn of Africa and the Arab nation, in addition to North and South Yemen.

'Abd al-Qawi Makkawi added that he had sent a letter to the African foreign ministers conference in Khartoum a few days ago. The leader of the United Patriotic Front further said that he will be going to Khartoum soon to meet with a number of the African leaders who will be there to attend the African summit.

In conclusion, Makkawi said: It is time to carry out a unified action against the communist cancer which began infiltrating South Yemen. The general situation in South Yemen is bad, requiring us to unify our ranks and carry out a joint action against this current.

COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY MEMBERS SENTENCED

NC151438Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 15 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 July--The supreme military court under Brig Gen Mukhtar Muhammad Sha'ban today sentenced 'Ali as-Sa'id Zahran, the main defendant in the case of the Egyptian Communist Labor Party, to 5 years in prison plus a fine of 100 pounds. The court acquitted seven other defendants.

Defendant 'Ali as-Sa'id Zahran was convicted on the charge of belonging to an organization which aimed at changing the basic social and economic systems in the country. He was acquitted of the charge of promoting the objectives of this organization.

The court also sentenced Ahmad Muhammad Abu Hajji, Farraj Salim al-'Ayni and Muhammad Muhammad al'Laythi to 3 years in prison and the payment of 100-pound fine each. Ahmad Muhammad 'Umar was sentenced to 2 years in prison and the payment of a 100-pound fine, and Salah as-Sayyid 'Abd ar'Rahim was sentenced to 1 year in prison and the payment of a 100-pound fine. They were all convicted on the charge of belonging to the same organization and acquitted of the charge of promoting the objectives of the organization.

The supreme military court acquitted Jum'ah 'Abd al-Hamid Sultan, Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rasul 'Afifi, 'Izzat Mahir 'Abd al-Khaliq, Muhammad Ahmad ar-Ramli, Hsna' 'Abd al-'Azim, Fathiyah Hasan Khalil and 'Abdallah Muhammad Sulayman of the charges made against them.

The court decided that it was judicially incompetent to try Hassan Hashim 'Uthman and Ibrahim al-Badrawi Yunis because they were arrested after the issuance of the presidential decree referring the case to the military court. It also decided that it was incompetent to try Khalid Mahmud Hammad because he was a juvenile when the crime was committed.

The court's verdict dissolves the secret organization--the Egyptian Communist Workers Party--and provides for the confiscation of all seized books, leaflets and publications.

The consideration of this case began on 4 March. The court held 21 sessions, during which it heard the evidence of 9 prosecution witnesses, the defense of 14 lawyers and the pleading of the military prosecution. The pleadings ended on 16 June, when the court reserved the pronouncement of the sentence until today's session.

Two foreign lawyers attended the court's session. The first was a representative of the International Organization of Justice and the second a representative of the World Democratic Jurists League in Brussels.

AL-AHRAM ON MOSCOW'S ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST

NC170900Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AHRAM comments today on the attempts being made by the agents of the Soviet Union to bolster the role Moscow is playing to solve the Middle East crisis after this role had almost waned because of the Kremlin leaders' rash policy by which they have been trying to harm Egypt's sovereignty. The paper says: Those who call themselves the World Peace Council body issued a statement in Moscow yesterday calling for the achievement of a just settlement in the Middle East and consolidating the so-called unity of the Arab and progressive forces and their alliance with the Soviet Union and other socialist states. Those who were closely bound to the Soviet aims and plans seek a role for Moscow in the current peace efforts now that the Soviet role has completely vanished because of the rash policy adopted by the Kremlin leaders; the policy has been rejected by Egypt because it conflicts with its eagerness to continue to preserve its sovereignty and freedom of decision.

The paper adds that the just settlement about which they are talking and in which they see a role for themselves has faced more than one obstacle because the Soviets were eager to disrupt the unity of the Arab ranks despite their awareness that this unity represents the basic strength of the Arab negotiator and also because the Soviets aimed at weakening the Egyptian Army by banning the export of arms to it, despite their complete awareness that this army is the principal force confronting the Israeli aggression, whether in war or in negotiations.

What is required of the Arabs now is to enter into an alliance with the Soviets that will enable the Soviets to consolidate their foothold in the area and that will enable their agents to spew their venom, disseminate their ideas and expand their cadres and their secret and public organizations.

The alliance they seek will not benefit the Arabs but will bring them back to the fold of arms monopoly so that the Soviets will control their supply according to their wishes and plans. The required alliance aims only at consolidating Moscow's stand of confronting the Arab alliance and at increasing the isolation of the Arab side in the international arena. Despite this, we can only say that if the Soviets are serious this time, they should confirm their true intentions by cogent proof, refrain from adopting the policy of driving a wedge between the Arabs and realize that Egypt has cherished, still cherishes and will continue to cherish its eagerness to have freedom of decision.

AL-AHRAM ON VIENNA TALKS, PERES' STATEMENTS

LD141100Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Jul 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Salzburg--By Hamdi Fu'ad--There have been differences in views and contradictions between the statements of Israeli Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres and Chairman of Socialist International Willy Brandt. Before leaving for Rome, Willy Brandt stated on his behalf and on behalf of Chancellor Kreisky that the statement issued by the Socialist International was drafted without prior consultation with President as-Sadat or Shim'on Peres, and that the statement is not contrary to the spirit of the Vienna talks.

Brandt added: By providing that the Palestinians must choose their representatives, the statement declares a fact well-known to Mr Kreisky and myself--that the PLO represents the Palestinian people. This naturally includes the Palestinians who represent their citizens in the West Bank.

But in a statement Shim'on Peres said that although he recognizes the need for the Palestinian people's participation in the talks on their future and accepts the representation of Palestinians through election, he absolutely refuses to accept the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians.

Peres said that the Vienna talks showed total agreement that the dangers threatening the Middle East are Soviet intervention, the spread of communism, increasing extremism and the spread of poverty.

Peres said that the Vienna talks achieved tangible progress though there are many differences that can be overcome with regard to specific problems, such as Israeli airfields in Sinai. It is possible to reach a practical solution for this problem.

Peres added: The statement issued by the Socialist International is considered the best, most realistic document issued by this group. He will recommend that his party (the Israeli Labor Party) support the statement despite the criticism of the statement in Israel.

AS-SADAT TO ADDRESS ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE 22 JULY

NC171920Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat will deliver an important political speech at the meeting of the ASU Central Committee on Saturday morning.

The meeting will be attended by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, People's Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, ASU Central Committee Secretary General Dr Mustafa Khalil, Superintendent of the Specialized Councils Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir Hatim, the deputy prime ministers, the ministers, the governors and the editors in chief of newspapers.

VANCE, ATHERTON REPORTEDLY TO VISIT MIDDLE EAST

NC160720Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0632 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 July--The magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF says that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is expected to visit Cairo, Tel Aviv, Riyadh and Amman some weeks after the London meetings. In tomorrow's edition, the magazine says that after Vance's tour in the area, the U.S. roving ambassador, Alfred Atherton, will come to the area on a new mission.

CHOLERA CASE DISCOVERED IN CAIRO; OFFICIAL COMMENTS

NC151532Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1508 GMT 15 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 July--It was announced here today that a Saudi who arrived in Cairo from Riyadh yesterday was found to be suffering from cholera. Egyptian Health Ministry Under Secretary Dr Ahmad al-'Aqqad has stated that the Saudi citizen has been isolated to prevent the disease from spreading. He added that the Arab Republic of Egypt is completely free from cholera.

PRESIDENT AL-BAKR MAKES SPEECH ON JULY ANNIVERSARIES

JN161759Y Baghdad INA in English 1620 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 16 July--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, in a major policy speech, has warned of the dangers of turning the Arab homeland into a battle-ground for influence between the conflicting international powers.

President al-Bakr said the turning of the Arab homeland into a battle-ground for influence between the international powers will certainly have grave consequences threatening world peace and security and could trigger off world war. Because of the absence of an independent national stand that expresses the interest of the nation and because of the adoption of wrong policies, such dangers are quite real, the president said.

President al-Bakr solemnly called for an independent national stand and selection of friends carefully in harmony with the national interest, adherence to the non-aligned policy and stepping up struggle against colonialism and any form of foreign influence or intervention, saying that this will be conducive to the cause of peace and stability in the world.

This was stated by President al-Bakr in a nation-wide address broadcast tonight over Iraqi radios and television stations on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the July 14 Revolution and the 10th anniversary of the July 17 Revolution.

President al-Bakr called for the adoption of a "serious national line" actually capable of effecting the sought-after change in the political, military and economic balances of power against the Zionist enemy and his ally-colonialism. The president said "those talking about Iraq's isolation are deceiving themselves and misleading the masses. No party can impose isolation against us," the president stressed.

The president underlined the fact that Iraq has taken a national, principled and practical, rightful stand, saying that Iraq refuses to deal with those taking deviationist and wrong stands. Iraq, he said, is endeavouring to serve the Arab nation, achieve its interests and safeguard its rights and dignity.

President al-Bakr said the national objective is that for Iraq to become a solid and active base for the movement of the Arab revolution and a centre for support and illumination in the movement. "This is our central objective in which all our potentials and endeavours are pooled," the president said.

President al-Bakr added: The national, socialist and democratic line of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ABSP] as embodied in a viable way in the experience of the July 17 revolution during the past ten years is "our" irreversable historic line. President al-Bakr emphasized that it is vain to think that the ABSP could change its fundamental stances under any form of pressure. Al-Bakr stressed that the independent line of the revolution in the ideological and political fields is neither an ordinary stance nor a temporary option or new stance. "It is the path chosen by the ABSP since more than 30 years when it defined its own ideological and political options despite the existence of numerous ideologies and international blocs," the president said.

President al-Bakr said the ABSP's option for an independent path--both ideologically and politically--emanates from the genuine and creative historic character of the Arab nation, one of the makers of human history and creeds. The greatness of the ABSP is in its ability to give expression to the historic inclination of the Arab nation for independence.

Referring to the historic background of the July 17 Revolution, President al-Bakr said it was an independent-minded revolution, a genuine Iraqi patriotic revolution and a genuine Arab national revolution deeply rooted in history and in Iraqi and Arab characters.

The July 17 Revolution, the president said, has won a great national achievement by placing Iraq with all its political, economic, military, human and civilizational potentials in the course of the national struggle for liberation and progress and achieving unity and the liberation of Palestine.

President al-Bakr said "guided by this line, the revolution has developed the most sound formulas to govern its relations at the international level by making a clear distinction between the enemies of the nation--imperialists and Zionists--and the consistent friends and interim allies. The revolution had worked out clear formulas for dealing with all of them at all levels," he added.

"This is the line [which] ought to be adopted by the Arab nation in its international relations," the president said. Iraq, he said, welcomes all those seeking cooperation and friendship with her within the frame of the national interest and on basis of respect of sovereignty, independence, mutually-beneficial interests and non-interference in the internal affairs.

The president attracted the attention to the fact that Iraq's national independent stance on the Palestine question has brought here the indignation of many parties.

President al-Bakr pointed out to the parties that aim against Iraq to put it aloof from the area of influence. [sentence as received] "Many Arab countries, with the encouragement of different international quarters, have agreed to stand against the call of Iraq," the president added.

"The political line proposed by the ABSP against Zionism and imperialism has proved its credibility. But those who followed mirage-oriented stands and accepted international settlements and maneuvers reaped only dismay and capitulation," he said.

President al-Bakr furthermore recalled [the] Iraqi comprehensive plan to counter setbacks in the Arab stands following As-Sadat's visit to the occupied territories.

On the situation in Lebanon, President al-Bakr said the same elements which caused the destruction of this Arab country are still practising the same policy and sowing denominational seeds among different sects. "The Syrian regime is now fighting her old allies who, together, stood against the Lebanese and Palestinian movements. The Syrian regime is following a hideous line instructed to it by imperialism in order to create chaos in Lebanon to help them conclude the settlement movement process."

President al-Bakr warned against indulging in the same previous mistakes. "Many opportunities were lost. We have to achieve Arab togetherness and solidarity and provide the prerequisites for political, economical and military confrontation against the Zionist enemy and other imperialist forces, headed by the United States, for the liberation of occupied Arab territories, he added.

Iraq has completely shifted from imperialist-dictatorial domination, [and] got rid of previous exploitation, anarchy and disagreement to new horizons of full independence and democracy.

The president confirmed that Iraq will not retreat from its previously planned position which ultimately leads [the] Iraqi people and the Arab nation to the socialist construction, national development and unity.

On Iraqi assistance to other Arab and developing countries, the president said the amounts of these aids reached since 1974 to about 2,200 million U.S. dollars, of which the Arab countries' share was 70 percent. The aid covered more than 25 Arab, African and Asian countries.

Comparison of Texts

JN161927 [Editorial Report JN] Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic, Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic and Baghdad Domestic Television Service in Arabic link up at 1625 GMT on 16 July to broadcast live the address to the nation on the occasion of the July anniversaries by Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. Comparison of the radio version of the speech, which runs 55 minutes, with INA English report reveals that the radio version is adequately covered with the following addition:

Regarding Egyptian President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and the consequences of this visit (page E-2, paragraph eight), Al-Bakr says in the radio version:

"The serious Arab stand we proposed after President as-Sadat's visit to the occupied land, over which we have differed with certain brothers, proves to be the sound stand, because where have the other stands taken us?

"President as-Sadat's visit to the occupied land and his direct negotiations with the enemy were a major blow to the Arab struggle and rights. We proposed a serious and comprehensive plan to confront collapse and deterioration. Certain brothers, however, chose another course and other formulas. Where have these courses and formulas led them?

"It has become obvious that the plot is continuing without serious official steadfastness or effective confrontation. President as-Sadat is still pursuing the same course and is making further concessions to the enemy and colonialism. Regrettably, certain Arab sides are still publicly or secretly supporting As-Sadat in his course."

CLASHES BETWEEN KURDS, IRAQI TROOPS REPORTED

NC141240Y Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 13 Jul 78 pp 1, 11 NC

[Talat Polat reports from Barzani position from northern Iraq]

[Text] Mirgah Sur--HNA [HURRIYET NEWS AGENCY]--Kurdish forces, which were fighting each other some time ago on Turkish territory because of political differences, are now waging guerrilla war against the Iraqi forces. It has been reported that in the fighting, which began following the Iraqi Government's attempt to resettle the inhabitants of the Kurdish villages in northern Iraq in the An-Najaf Desert region in the south, the two sides lost more than 1,000 men. The Kurdish forces have also shot down eight Iraqi helicopters and blown up four Iraqi outposts.

Armored Iraqi units are using Soviet-made Cobra helicopters [as received] to bomb the positions of Peshmergas [Kurdish guerrillas] who resort to hit-and-run tactics.

The Peshmergas, in their turn, exploiting their superior knowledge of the terrain, are launching retaliatory attacks. Indirectly supported by Iran, the Barzani forces are for the most part launching night assaults against Iraqi forces.

It has been announced that the Iraqi Government has evacuated 26 Kurdish villages under the "forced resettlement" method, which came into force at the beginning of last May.

According to information given by Captain (Rojbeyani), who serves with the Barzani forces, during the clashes the government forces flattened 11 villages in the (Basya and Erjua) regions. In the bombings, 100 civilians lost their lives. Surviving women and children took refuge in caves. As a result of the bombings, a large number of livestock perished and wheat fields were destroyed by fire. During the bombings, Peshmergas shot down five helicopters. Iraqi casualties were 26 dead, including 8 officers.

Following the bombing and burning of the villages, Peshmergas ambushed an Iraqi military convoy on the (Bile-Rekan) highway and killed 32 officers and 121 soldiers. After this incident the Iraqi Government sent airborne troops to the region. On the night of the same day, Iraqi infantry units arrived from Kirgah Sup. Iraqi airborne troops and infantry units mistook each for Peshmergas and fired at each other. In the ensuing battle, which lasted for several hours, hundreds of people died.

SADDAM HUSAYN MEETS WITH DPRK VP PAK SONG-CHOL

JN161140Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 July--Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], received here today Pak Song-chol, member of the Politburo of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee, DPRK vice president and head of the DPRK delegation to Iraq's July celebrations.

During the meeting, Pak Song-chol conveyed to Saddam Husayn the greetings and wishes of the party and state leaders in the DPRK on the occasion of the glorious 14 and 17 July revolutions. He expressed his happiness at participating in Iraq's celebrations and thus embodying the strength of the relations between Iraq and Korea.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Jamli, Foreign Ministry under secretary; the DPRK ambassador in Baghdad; and several members of the delegation accompanying Pak Song-chol.

GDR'S SINDERMANN MEETS WITH VICE PRESIDENT MA'RUF

JN151403Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 15 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 July--Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf met here today with Horst Sindermann, member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Politburo and deputy chairman of the GDR State Council.

During the meeting, they reviewed relations between Iraq and the GDR, and the Arab and international situation.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali, under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Guenther Schurath, chief of the Middle East Department at the GDR Foreign Ministry; and the GDR ambassador to Iraq.

Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN151924Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 15 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 July--Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, received here this evening Horst Sindermann, member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Politburo and deputy chairman of the GDR State Council.

During the meeting, Sindermann conveyed to Saddam Husayn the greetings and congratulations of the party-state leaders in the GDR on the occasion of the July anniversaries.

He expressed his extreme happiness over being able to represent his country in these celebrations. This embodies the strong and developing relations between the two friendly countries.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and the current international situation. The meeting lasted 1 and 1/2 hours and was attended by 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali, under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the GDR ambassador in Baghdad.

CUBA'S PEDRO MIRET, BA'TH OFFICIAL HOLD TALKS

FL170036Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0025 GMT 17 Jul 78 FL

[Text] In Baghdad, Pedro Miret Prieto, member of the PCC Politburo and the Council of State, today held talks with Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party of Iraq. During the talks, matters dealing with the international situation and the relations between the two parties were discussed. Pedro Miret Prieto heads the Cuban delegation invited to the festivities marking the 10th anniversary of the Iraqi revolution and the 20th anniversary of the overthrow of that country's monarchy.

BA'THIST MEETS ROMANIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

JN171920Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 17 July--Comrade Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Office in the National Command, has affirmed that the Arab nation will ultimately triumph because it believes in its struggle as a means to achieve its objectives. Comrade ar-Razzaz received here today the Romanian Communist Party delegation headed by Comrade Paul Niculescu, member of the Executive Political Committee of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee and deputy prime minister.

During the meeting, Comrade ar-Razzaz affirmed that genuine and just peace should be based on the right of peoples to self-determination on their soil and homeland.

Comrade Niculescu expressed Romania's readiness to expand cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the Romanian Communist Party in the interests of the two peoples. He said: We support the Ba'th Party in its struggle against imperialism. We also support the Palestinian people in their just struggle to regain their usurped homeland and for self-determination on their land.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Malik (?Bashdar), member of the Foreign Relations Office in the National Command, and the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad.

CROWN PRINCE HASAN LEAVES ON U.S. VISIT

JN171518Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 17 July--His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Princess Tharwat left Amman today for the United States on a private visit that will last for several days.

They were seen off at the airport by His Majesty King Husayn, members of the Hashemite family, the chief of the Royal Court and the court minister.

ECONOMIC DELEGATION RETURNS FROM DAMASCUS

JN171910Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian Financing Committee, a subbody of the Joint Higher Committee, returned to Amman today from Damascus. A responsible source in the delegation has stated that the two sides approved the financing plans for various joint projects as prepared by the boards of directors of these projects and their constituent bodies. Funds were allocated for the projects of the Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company, the Jordanian-Syrian Company for Maritime Navigation, the Joint Industries Company, the Free Industrial Zone Company and the Jordanian-Syrian Joint Bank.

The two sides were represented at these meetings by their ministers of finance, industry, economy and planning and by the governors of the Joranian and Syrian central banks.

The approved plans will be submitted to the first meeting of the Higher Joint Committee for its approval.

MINISTER COMMENTS ON TRADE TALKS WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS

JN180734Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Jul 78 p 2 JN

[Text] Amman--JNA--Industry and Trade Minister Dr Najm ad-Din ad-Dajani returned to Amman yesterday from London where he held trade and economic talks with the British secretary of state for trade and the secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs.

Dr ad-Dajani said that during his week-long visit he also met with several other British officials in the fields of finance, trade and banking who are concerned with Middle East affairs and discussed with them the possibility of establishing joint projects.

Dr ad-Dajani said that he and the British secretary of state for trade drafted an agreement to protect the encouragement of investment between the two countries. It was agreed that the British secretary will visit Jordan in the fall at the head of an official delegation to continue the talks with Jordanian officials.

FOREIGN MINISTER, U.S. AMBASSADOR DISCUSS SITUATION

NC171130Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[Text] This morning, Minister Butrus met with the U.S. ambassador in Lebanon, Richard Parker, at Parker's request. The meeting lasted 1 hour, at the end of which the U.S. ambassador stated that he had discussed the general situation with Minister Butrus. They also held an extensive review which dealt with the current situation, including the south and the security situation in Beirut. Told that the situation was bad, the U.S. ambassador commented: Every day in which shots are not heard is a good day; and today the situation has been calm up to now.

Minister Butrus, replaying to a question concerning Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's visit to Beirut this week, said: Perhaps the visit will take place within the next few days.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS MEETS WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS

NC171302Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Today, at noon, President Ilyas Sarkis held a meeting with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss in which an assessment was made of the reactions to the president's message. A discussion was also held concerning the broad lines of the executive measures which the state will carry out during the coming stage.

After the meeting, Prime Minister al-Huss made the following statement: At this meeting, discussions dealt with all the measures and arrangements the government is to carry out during the next phase in order to handle the situation prevailing in the country in light of recent developments.

Asked whether a cabinet session would be held next Wednesday, the prime minister replied that it would. It will be preceded by a working meeting under the chairmanship of President Sarkis.

Asked about the prospects for his visit to Damascus this week after it had been ascertained that Syrian Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will visit Lebanon during the next few days, he replied: My visit to Damascus this weekend is on the agenda, but is not firm. In reply to another question, he said: Minister Khaddam's visit to Beirut could possibly delay my visit. Asked whether he knows the exact date of Minister Khaddam's arrival, Prime Minister al-Huss replied: Probably this week.

AL-AS'AD COMMENTS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

NC171758Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpts] Speaker Kamil al-As'ad today discussed the general situation in Lebanon with the deputies and various visitors, particularly in the wake of President Sarkis' message. He also discussed the recent developments and the next stage. Speaker al-As'ad then held a press conference in his office, in which he replied to a number of questions.

Concerning President Sarkis' message, Speaker al-As'ad said: President Sarkis' withdrawal of his resignation is in response to the desire expressed by the Chamber of Deputies, Lebanese public opinion and the national responsibility which, in these particular circumstances, demands that he continue the hard task and not subject Lebanon to a terrifying vacuum during these hard times.

Al-As'ad added: I have an observation to make on what the president said concerning the collection of weapons. I hope that President Sarkis does not believe that this is out of the question at this time, because this is contrary to the course of events. After the joint Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees adopted a recommendation on 10 July calling for gathering weapons from all parties, we held a discussion with the Syrians on this subject. I found a favorable response, particularly from President Hafiz al-Asad, and a willingness on their part to implement this decision through the Arab Deterrent Forces. I have conveyed this position to His Excellency President Sarkis.

Today, we affirm the need to follow up this subject. Security and stability will be built around this action, which will deprive the various parties of any excuse to let the country flounder and will bring an end to the various armed ministates whose existence prevents the establishment of a legal state in the real sense of the word.

Concerning the statement made by former President Sham'un, Speaker al-As'ad said: We read the statement. We have become accustomed to hearing such words from former President Sham'un on every occasion. It seems that I have come in for more than my share this time in these tragic and dangerous circumstances which we are experiencing. We must not pay attention to these methods. However, the political and military responsibility currently assumed by former President Sham'un demands that we reply to Lebanese public opinion. Our assessment was made in light of the resignation's repercussions on the national level. At any rate, I wish to affirm on this occasion that we have been, still are, and will continue to oppose the realization of the desires of those who are working to dig a grave for Lebanon's entity and nationality.

Concerning the efforts to establish a wide national grouping to face the partitionist designs, Al-As'ad said: We have already stated that efforts must be made for the establishment of a national political bloc in order to stand up to the idea of partition and its repercussions, represented in acts of exiling people and usurping property. We are carrying out contacts regarding this and I think that the majority of the Lebanese people comprehend the dangerous circumstances and the gravity of this subject. All elements, irrespective of the community to which they belong, fear that they will wake up one day and witness the frightening nightmare of partition. Some assert that all the Lebanese and all political officials are united in supporting the unity of Lebanon's territories, people and institutions. We have a document pertaining to this approved by the Chamber of Deputies on 25 April 1978. Regrettably, however, events follow one another quickly but often take opposite directions, and we should stand up to this to prevent these events from opposing our overt and covert desires. This is a purely national matter emanating from a belief in Lebanon and the desire to preserve it, and from a belief in the necessity of facing the big conspiracy which aims to harm the Arab cause, starting with Lebanon.

SECURITY FORCES, ARMY TO PROTECT BEIRUT PORT

NC171830Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpts] Prior to his meeting with the president, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss dealt with the economic situation including measures which will insure the supply of food and other staples to the citizens and the adoption of measures which will prevent high prices and exploitation.

Prime Minister al-Huss met first with a delegation of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The meeting was devoted to the completion of discussions on methods which might be adopted to allow work to be resumed at the Beirut Port under normal conditions. It also dealt with insuring the necessary protection so that those who work at the port can arrive freely and thus prevent the economic damages and losses which cannot be stopped if the port remains closed. This will enable the importers to clear their goods from the port warehouses.

As a result of the discussions, it was agreed that units of the Lebanese security forces and army should protect the port and guard the entrances leading to it. One of the delegation members, Mr Bodaro, contacted Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman, who explained the details of the measures which have been adopted in order to start the work of the security forces and army personnel and thus make it possible to open the port under normal conditions.

Minister Salman announced that all arrangements have been taken to start the work of the security forces and army personnel in guarding the port and its entrances, and that the deployment of these forces will start today. They will take up predetermined positions and enable the resumption of work in the port under normal conditions.

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY SEEKING ARMS FROM SPAIN

NC180822Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 18 July--The Kuwaiti Newspaper AL-ANBA' today reports that contacts are underway between Lebanon and Spain to purchase arms for the Lebanese Army. Quoting Arab diplomatic sources in Madrid, the paper says that a Lebanese military delegation will visit Spain next Friday to conclude a deal for military equipment, including patrol boats, antitank missiles and vehicles.

SOCIALIST PARTY ASSAILS PRESIDENT SARKIS' POLICY

JN171935Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 17 July--The Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party has criticised President Sarkis for his announcement of his intention to resign and his subsequent decision to remain in office. The party has described this as a maneuver to protect the isolationist gangs.

A statement was issued by the party today in reaction to the speech made by the President on Saturday when he announced his decision to remain in office. The statement expressed surprise that the president equated the Palestinian forces, which are internationally and locally recognised as forces fighting to achieve a national goal, and the forces which cooperate with the enemy and are implementing a plot to divide Lebanon.

Commenting on the President's remark that he will send the army to the south, the party's statement wondered how this army, in its present condition, can play a national role, since it is only an extension of the isolationist militias and the Zionist infiltration in Lebanon. The statement recalled the fact that the government has not taken any action against the traitor, Maj Sa'd Haddad and his gang who cooperate with the Zionist enemy in the south. The statement added that the authorities did not expell them from the army or try them on charges of treason in accordance with martial law.

The Progressive Socialist Party rejected the president's call for a detente with the allies of the Zionists and for a dialog with the Phalangists and the Sham'unists, who cooperate with the enemy. The statement called for the isolation of these two parties and for their fall as a prelude to building a unified Lebanon.

KUWAITI PAPERS REPORT SYRIAN POSITION ON LEBANON

NC171240Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[Text] In today's edition the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS reports that Syria has rejected a proposal to reduce its troops in Lebanon. The paper says that the United States and Saudi Arabia are discussing a plan on this matter.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reports that Syria has notified Kuwait of its objection to the convening of an Arab summit conference to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

AT-TUWAYNI SAYS SYRIA TO PARTICIPATE IN MIDEAST TALKS

JN171350Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 17 July--Ghassan at-Tuwayni, permanent Lebanese envoy to the United Nations, has disclosed that Syria is playing a basic role in what he called "the peace talks in the area." At-Tuwayni, who was commenting on Dr Kurt Waldheim's visit to Damascus, which began today, said: "It is no longer a secret that Waldheim is preparing for the next stage of the peace talks in which Syria will play a role."

At-Tuwayni met today with Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and submitted a report on the talks he held with UN officials on the implementation of UN Resolution 425, particularly with regard to those parts of southern Lebanon which the Lebanese authorities must be able to control.

ARMY COMMANDER TALKS TO NEW MILITARY GRADUATES

NC151322Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpts] We have received the following from the Fifth Branch of the Army Command:

At 1000 today, Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri officiated at the presentation of the colors to a new group of soldiers. The ceremony took place in the flag square of the Defense Ministry building in Al-Yarzih, in the presence of the chief of the general staff and high-ranking officers of the command.

After the graduating soldiers had taken the oath of allegiance to Lebanon and its army, Army Commander Brig Gen Victor Khuri delivered the following speech:

Men, while you are following the course Lebanon has charted for itself, your country is passing through one of the most delicate phases of its life. You have opted for an army career at a time when many are using it to commit aggression, usurpation and blackmail.

Soldiers, your most important material asset is to have a high combat capability. Let your moral assets be absolute faith in the unity of Lebanon's territory, people and institutions--without looking to the right or left--and resolve and determination to die for Lebanon, the homeland, and its sovereignty. Rally only around the Lebanese legitimacy, represented by his excellency the president of the country, the symbol of Lebanese unity and its sanctity, keeping away from all sectarianism or regionalism or external and internal currents.

Remain soldiers from all of Lebanon, for all of Lebanon, as peaceful instruments capable of protecting Lebanon and ready to implement the political authority's decisions without question.

In order you to rally, together with your commands, around the president of the country, Ilyas Sarkis, particularly during the present difficult situation, so that Lebanon may become stronger by your efforts and so that you may be legitimacy's strong instrument that is capable of rescuing it from its ordeal. Lebanon needs you now more than ever before. Its salvation can be achieved only by you, provided you continue to be united.

FRANJIYAH SUPPORTERS TO ESTABLISH 2 RADIO STATIONS

NC171025Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0913 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 17 July--On 19 July, the Ihdin "Al-Maradah" [giants] radio station will begin transmission on a medium wavelength and will cover the whole of Lebanon. This private radio station has been established by the supporters of former President Sulayman Franjiyah in response to the radio station which was established by the Phalangist Party during the 2-year war. This radio station, ever since the Phalangist attack on the township of Ihdin, has been broadcasting statements against Franjiyah, who was one of the prominent leaders of the rightist Lebanese Front.

At the same time, the Franjiyah supporters are also building a new radio station on As-Sayyidah mountain in Ihdin. This station will cover all the Arab countries and some other countries.

VOICE OF LEBANON: ROCKETS HIT IRANIAN EMBASSY

NC170732Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0715 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[Text] At 0555 today, two rockets were fired at the Ar-Ramlah al-Bayda' area from Sabra. They hit the Iranian Embassy causing material damage only, because the embassy employees had not reported to duty yet.

It is worth noting that the Iranian Embassy is near the Iraqi Embassy. Observers believe that the Iraqi Embassy was the intended target in the wake of the bloody clashes which erupted recently between Fatah and the pro-Iraq Arab Liberation Front.

INA REPORTS CLASHES BETWEEN RIGHTISTS IN EASTERN BEIRUT

JN171425Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 17 July--Fresh clashes took place today between the Phalangist Party and the National Liberal Party in the eastern part of Beirut, particularly in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Furn ash-Shubbak. The sound of machineguns was heard in the area. Tension was high, movement in the streets decreased and people stayed home.

The clashes between the two rightist parties, which began last Saturday, renewed last night after they exchanged fire. Seven people were killed and a number of others were injured in these clashes. Rightist information media completely ignored these bloody clashes yesterday and today. Rightist sources, however, said that high-ranking contacts are underway between the leaderships of the two parties to contain the situation.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON CONTINUES TENSE

NC161201Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Today's reports from the south indicate that the situation in the Sidon area has been tense for the past 3 days in the wake of the armed clashes between Palestinian elements. The Palestinian organizations continue to consider themselves in a state of alert.

The reports add that a Romanian ship carrying locked crates has arrived in the port of Tyre and that these crates have been removed under armed Palestinian guard.

A meeting was held this morning at the UN command headquarters in the Tyre area. During the meeting the security situation in the area was discussed in the wake of the incidents which took place between the UN forces and armed Palestinians.

UNIFIL Activity

NC170636Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] In the south, the UN command has expressed satisfaction with UNIFIL's work. It has been reported that a detachment of engineers from the French contingent has defused some thousands of various types of shells and mines. This was contained in a report by the UNIFIL deputy commander, General Cuq. He said that the detachment which is stationed in the Jwayya area has become very popular with the inhabitants because most of them were apprehensive that they would become casualties from the buried mines.

General Cuq, who believes that the recent incidents in Beirut have frozen the situation, has affirmed that for various reasons relations are difficult with the armed men in the south, particularly the Plaestinians.

Despite the fact that a large number of southerners has returned to their homes, they have not really started to rebuild their area. In Al-Ghanduriyah, for example, which was wiped off the map by the Israeli air force, the villagers are living amid the rubble in tents or prefabriacted homes that have been left by the Israelis.

Israeli Overflights

JN172025Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 17 July--Zionist enemy planes are now overflying the cities of Sidon and Az-Zahrani in southern Lebanon. An INA correspondent in southern Lebanon says that the planes began overflying these cities at low altitude half an hour ago. At the same time gunboats are patrolling the sea. The correspondent says that the joint forces are in a state of alert and have taken all precautions and preparations to repulse any possible attack.

UN SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM ARRIVES DAMASCUS

JN171343Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Text] UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim arrived in Damascus at 1345 today. He was received by the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; Dr Hitham Kilani, director of international organizations at the Foreign Ministry; and high-ranking officials of the Foreign Ministry.

Holds Press Conference

JN180615Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim and UN Assistant Secretary General Roberto Guyer last evening. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Viewpoints were exchanged on the developments in the Middle East situation and the security situation in southern Lebanon, where the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon is carrying out its duty. Discussions also centered on the difficulties these forces are encountering during the exercise of their duties.

Earlier last evening, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam held a dinner in honor of Dr Waldheim at the Sheraton Hotel. The dinner was attended by several Syrian officials and the delegation accompanying Dr Waldheim. Dr Kurt Waldheim expressed his thanks to President al-Asad for providing him with the opportunity to exchange viewpoints on the Middle East situation and on issues of interest to Syria and the international organization.

At a press conference attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies, and by correspondents of the local radio, television and press, Dr Waldheim stated that he had held important and interesting discussions with President Al-Asad and with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the Middle East situation. He described these talks as being exploratory. Asked about whether President Hafiz al-Asad had shown any interest in attending a meeting including all the principal parties in the Middle East crisis, Dr Waldheim stated that President al-Asad explained that he is for a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question with the participation of all the parties to discuss the various aspects.

Asked about his expectations of the London meeting to be attended by representatives of Israel, As-Sadat and the United States, Dr Waldheim said: At a press conference I held a few days ago, I expressed my doubts about the success of this conference. I believe that to achieve a comprehensive settlement, all the parties must participate, either in a Geneva conference or any other preliminary conference.

The UN secretary general spoke about his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. He stated that the meeting was held to discuss the Middle East situation and cooperation between the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the PLO. Dr Waldheim added that he is interested in restoring calm to southern Lebanon.

On the subject of the UN mediation efforts between Ethiopia and the Eritrean revolutionaries, Dr Waldheim stated that the international organization is following developments and that he is personally interested in this matter.

DAMASCUS DAILY COMMENTS ON SYRIA'S STAND, POLICY

JN160715Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Syria Is Proud of Its Patriotic Stubbornness," the newspaper AL-BA'TH writes the following commentary:

The situation in Lebanon has become extremely intricate as a result of the increased number of plots hatched by the Phalangist-Sham'unist gangs.

With the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon, we are witnessing a concurrent process among the other plotters which is moving rapidly toward the final conclusion of a separate peace agreement between Israel and the As-Sadat regime. Meanwhile, an unusual move is correntlу being undertaken by certain Arab quarters, whose objectives may encounter the already revealed series of sequential steps being taken to further complicate the Lebanese situation.

AL-BA'TH adds: Ever since the 1975 eruption in Lebanon, we have officially said that what was taking place in that country was directly and intrinsically linked to the second Sinai agreement. After 1975, great pressures were brought to bear on Syria in an attempt to force her to abandon the Lebanese arena. Syria, however, insisted with patriotic stubborness that she would resist the conspiratorial scheme until the end.

This is what actually took place--a step which foiled the partition plot. But is seems that the plotters only postponed temporarily the implementation of their plan until the right factors were available. Following As-Sadat's treacherous trip to occupied Palestine, all realities changed and thus the elements necessary for the plot became available. The circle of the plot has widened and the number of players has greatly increased, so that the scheme now covers parts of Africa and some of the countries bordering on the Arab homeland.

AL-BA'TH adds: The plotters began to implement the second phase of the plot with each side playing its role. The Phalangists and Sham'unist gangs made the opening move by creating several incidents, including several against Lebanese citizens and the Arab Deterrent Forces, particularly the Syrian elements. These gangs continued to carry out provocative acts until Israel was able, with the full coordination and cooperation of these gangs and of the As-Sadat regime, to launch its aggression against southern Lebanon and to occupy it. The next step in the scheme was an attempt to drag Syria into a war with Israel. But Syria exercized self-restraint and exposed the game, thus foiling the plotters' attempts. Syria then announced frankly that it would not fight when Israel chose; Syria alone will decide the time and place of a war.

BA'TH OFFICIAL SCORES PHALANGISTS, AS-SADAT, IRAQ

JN180704Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party regional assistant secretary, has stressed that the continued Phalangist-Sham'unist collusion with the Zionist enemy forces to rekindle the fires of sedition and commit crimes against innocent Lebanese citizens will only serve Zionist and imperialist plans to partition Lebanon. These objectives are directly connected to the capitulations and treason begun by Anwar as-Sadat.

Comrade Bajbuj stated that the regime of capitulation and treason in Egypt and its supporters were shocked that their plans were definitely rejected by Arab Syria in particular and by the front of steadfastness and confrontation in general.

The regional assistant secretary criticized the defeatist stands adopted by the Baghdad rulers and the role they are carrying out against the Arab nation's cause and the steadfastness and confrontation countries. He also critized their oppressive measures against the nationalist and progressive forces in Iraq and their attempts to divide the ranks of the Palestinian revolution.

Comrade Bajbuj was speaking at a trade unionist training course currently being held by the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions in cooperation with the Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions.

Comrade Bajbuj reviewed the current political circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing and the Zionist and imperialist conspiracies being concocted against the Arab nation. Comrade Bajbuj stressed that our struggle to liberate occupied Arab territories and to regain the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights requires steadfastness and confrontation and support for Syria.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANESE ISLAMIC DELEGATION

JN141441Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Jul 78 JN

[Text] At 1230 today President Hafiz al-Asad received a delegation from the Islamic Grouping in Beirut and the Front for the Protection of the South. The delegation is made up of Dr 'Abdallah al-Yafi, Taqi ad-Din as-Sulh, Dr Nasib al-Barbir, 'Ali al-Bazzi and Ja'far Sharaf ad-Din.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Adib Milhim, minister of state for presidential affairs.

During the meeting, the latest developments in Lebanon were reviewed. Delegation members expressed their appreciation for the honorable stand Syria has adopted under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in defending the unity of Lebanon, its land and people, and in defending Lebanon's Arabism. They also expressed their appreciation for the efforts Syria is making to consolidate security in Lebanon. Stress was placed on the need to make every effort to enable the legitimate Lebanese authorities to exercise their authority over all of Lebanon and also to enable these authorities to restore normal life to the fraternal country.

The delegation from the Islamic Grouping and the Front for the Protection of the South arrived in Damascus this morning. The delegation was welcomed at the Syrian-Lebanese border post by Adib Milhim, minister of state for presidential affairs.

In a press statement to a SANA correspondent, Dr 'Abdallah al-Yafi expressed happiness over visiting fraternal Syria. He stated that this visit is our duty. We came to Damascus to discuss the latest Lebanese developments with our Syrian brothers.

Former Lebanese Prime Minister Taqi ad-Din as-Sulh also made a statement in which he praised the brotherly Arab ties linking Syria and Lebanon. He stated that we have been and will remain in favor of the Syrian initiative in Lebanon which has resulted in stopping bloodshed there. We feel grateful to fraternal Syria which through this initiative has responded to the pan-Arab call and that of Syrian-Lebanese brotherhood.

As-Sulh stressed that the Lebanese people still praise the historic role of President Hafiz al-Asad's brotherly initiative and the entry of Syrian forces into Lebanon. This restored security and stability to Lebanon. He added that we came to Damascus today following certain events in Lebanon to consult and discuss with the brother Syrian officials ways to restore security and stability and to clear the atmosphere in Lebanon.

Lebanese Shi'ite Council Chairman

JN171345Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1330 today Imam Musa as-Sadr, chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Council in Lebanon. They discussed developments in the situation in Lebanon.

KHADDAM RECEIVES LEBANON'S AL-BIQA' DEPUTIES

JN151410Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jul 78 JN

[Text] At noon today 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received a delegation of deputies of the Al-Biqa' Bloc. The delegation is made up of Joseph Skaf, Salim al-Ma'luf, Michel Ma'luli, Ziad Harawi, Hasan Zahmul (al-Mis), Subhi Yaghi, Husayn Mansur and Salim ad-Dawud.

During the meeting, they discussed the situation in fraternal Lebanon.

Addresses Students, Criticizes Iraq

JN180730Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has spoken about the Arab nation's struggle against imperialism and international Zionism and the conspiracies being concocted against the Arab nation. These conspiracies are manifested in the agreements of treason and capitulation being made by the As-Sadat regime with the Zionist enemy and the attempts to partition Lebanon being carried out by the Phalangist-Sham'unist collaboration with support from Zionist enemy forces.

Addressing the members of the fourth conference of the foreign branches of the Syrian National Students Federation, the foreign minister pointed out the role performed by the Iraqi regime. He stressed that the Baghdad rulers are performing a role similar to that of the treacherous As-Sadat regime but conducted in a different manner. He pointed out the oppressive and fascist measures the Baghdad rulers have taken and are taking against nationalist and progressive forces in Iraq, as well as their attempts to strike at the Palestinian resistance and divide its ranks.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES SUDANESE ENVOY

JN161301Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Text] At 1330 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Baha ad-Din Idris, Sudanese minister of presidential affairs, who conveyed a message to President al-Asad from Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan. The meeting was attended by Adib Milhim, minister of presidential affairs.

ALGIERS

CUBAN SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AIDE BEGINS VISIT

LD171251Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 7-8 Jul 78 p 2 LD

[Text] Oran--Manuel Guitierrez, Cuban vice minister attached to the State Committee for Scientific Cooperation, arrived at Oran-es-Senia airport Thursday morning. He was greeted on arrival by Governate Popular Assembly Chairman Tandjaqui Abderrahmane and regional leaders.

The Cuban vice minister and the delegation accompanying him went to the Arzew industrial region. Visits have been planned to the refinery, "Altra" welding school, THEGNL-L [expansion unknown] and Bethioua methane tanker harbor.

After being entertained at luncheon by the authorities of Oran Province, the Cuban delegation visited during the afternoon the Bou-sfer socialist village situated on the Oran cliff (daira de mers-el-kebir).

Before returning to Algiers the Cuban vice minister attached to the State Committee for Scientific Cooperation will visit the sports installations of the second military region complex.

BOUMEDIENE LEAVES ALGIERS FOR OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM

LD180904Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and chairman of the Council of the Revolution, left Algiers for Khartoum this morning, heading an important delegation to attend the 15th session of the OAU summit conference, which starts today.

LIBYA

SENEGALESE PRESIDENT MEETS WITH AT-TURAYKI

LD172134Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Khartoum--Senegalese President Leopold Sedar Senghor this afternoon received 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary, who is leading the Jamahiriyah delegation to the meetings of African foreign ministers. During the course of the meeting, bilateral relations, the situation in Africa and the agenda of the 15th African summit were discussed.

MAURITANIA

FORMER PRESIDENT TRANSFERRED TO 'UNKNOWN LOCATION'

PA172155Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2110 GMT 17 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 17 Jul (AFP)--Reliable sources reported here that former Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah and the main figures of the former regime were transfered today to "an unknown location." Ould Daddah, who had been held with Sall Abdul Aziz, former president of the National Assembly, will from now on be "someplace in eastern Mauritania." Meanwhile, the strong military guard around a Nouakchott residence, where the ministers of the government overthrown by the 10 July coup d'etat had been detained, was withdrawn today.

TWO OFFICIALS OF FORMER REGIME RELEASED

PA171836Y Paris AFP in French 1506 GMT 17 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 7 Jul (AFP)--Two high-ranking Mauritanian officials of the former regime who had been arrested by the Military Committee of National Recovery were released early Saturday evening, informed sources have reported. They are Tijani Kerim, former high commissioner for youth and sports and president of the Higher Council of Young Peoples, and Mohamed Ali Cherif, former secretary general of the presidency.

DELEGATIONS LEAVE FOR AFRICAN STATES, EUROPE

LD172214Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Jul 78 LD

[Summary] Following the overthrow of the old regime, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania has begun to explain to the world the reasons behind the blessed step taken by the armed forces to deliver the country from collapse.

Cheikh Ould Mohamed Lagdhaf, minister of foreign affairs, left Nouakchott this evening to lead our country's delegation to the OAU summit conference which opens tomorrow in Khartoum.

Lt Col Ahmed Ould Salem Ould Sidi, member of the Military Committee for National Recovery and minister of equipment, has also left Nouakchott, but for Paris. The minister of equipment is carrying a message from Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and head of the government, to French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

Another delegation has left for Saudi Arabia. It is being led by Lt Col Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Ahmed Louly, member of the Military Committee for National Recovery and minister of control and investigations, who is being accompanied by Be Ould Ne, minister of justice and religious affairs. The delegation will convey a message from Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

A delegation led by Seck Mame Ndiack, minister of national education, left for visits to Morocco, Tunisia, Belgium and France this evening. In Tunis and Brussels the delegation will hand messages from Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, and to King Baudouin, the king of Belgium. In Rabat and Paris, the delegation will carry out working visits in connection with cooperation between Mauritania and Morocco and France, particularly in the field of education and the contracting of teachers.

SALECK CABLES CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW YAR PRESIDENT

LD172216Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2120 GMT 17 Jul 78 LD

[Summary] Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and head of government, has sent a cable of congratulations to Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih on his appointment as president of the Yemen Arab Republic.

MAURITANIA TO CONSULT MOROCCO REGARDING POLISARIO

LD171507Y Paris LE MONDE in French 15 Jul 78 p 3 LD

[By Pierre Biarnes]

[Text] Nouakchott--"We desperately want peace. However, we have not as yet opened talks with the POLISARIO Front. There will be no dialog until we have reached agreement with our Moroccan friends and allies as to what we can do together to attain this objective."

With these few words the new head of government, Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, moderated the hopes raised by the Saharan leaders' recent cease-fire offer.

The new head of state received us in the afternoon of Thursday, 13 July, in the office in which we had met his predecessor 1 week earlier, and he was surrounded by the same close collaborators. He talked slowly in a quiet voice, very reminiscent of the man he deposed Monday morning at the Moslem's hour of daily prayer.

The new Mauritanian leader must pay close attention to the interests and objectives of his powerful neighbor to the north, whose troops are camping in force on Mauritanian territory. Even if he wanted to, he cannot as yet make such a spectacular gesture as his enemies have done. On the contrary, he must weigh his words carefully, although some of his closest advisers, who are less reserved, have stated with assurance that the fall of Ould Daddah's regime has begun the "peace process" irreversibly.

Although the people tend to distrust Morocco, the later has influential allies in Nouakchott. These allies are to be found mainly in the traditional business circles which have traded with south Moroccan merchants from time immemorial. These circles had their interests frustrated by the socialist measures passed by the fallen regime and now support the new government. Mauritanian businessmen are among the warmest supporters of peace, which they hope will bring a revival of economic activity, but they must also look after Moroccan interests.

The process of returning to the franc zone, which the former president had discreetly set in motion recently, will now be speeded up out of necessity. At the same time the socialist structures established by the previous regime will be systematically dismantled. In this respect Lieutenant Colonel Saleck had no hesitation in telling us that "the way to economic recovery is a complete return to liberalism." In fact, the new Mauritanian leaders and their supporters want to return to the past in two respects: a return to the "prewar era" and also a return to "the presocialism era" since socialism threatened the privileges of the ruling classes as much as war did. The new head of state affairs: "Above all we want to reassert our Mauritanian identity."

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN REITERATES CLAIM TO SPANISH SAHARA

TA171236Y Paris AFP in English 1150 GMT 17 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Paris, 17 July (AFP)--Morocco would never tolerate an ideologically rival power along its southern border, King Hassan has said in a television interview to be broadcast here on Friday.

The king, interviewed last month--before the recent military coup in Mauritania--said that if Morocco had not claimed part of the former Spanish Sahara in 1975 "the ideology of the Sahara would have spread north to the great Atlas."

(Morocco and Mauritania divided the territory in the face of opposition by pro-independence socialist-backed Saharan nationalists following Spanish withdrawal.)

To have abandoned the Sahara would have meant the ultimate loss of Agadir and the Souss region. "Not in geographical terms but ideological terms" they would have become part of the Sahara, the king said.

"I could never allow my country to be cut off in the south by an ideology opposed to our own. That is my testament," he said.

King Hassan said he had inherited a kingdom of 600,000 square kilometers. To have renounced the claim to the Sahara would have resulted in a Morocco of 450 square kilometers in ten years, he said.

BOUCETTA DEFENDS ZAIRE ROLE, BLAMES TENSION ON ALGIERS

LD171321Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 8 Jul 78 pp 1, 5 LD

[MAP report on Moroccan Foreign Minister Boucetta's visit to Saudi Arabia: "'Morocco Not Responsible for Tension in Maghreb,' Boucetta Reminds LA LIBRE BELGIQUE"]

[Excerpt] Jidda, 7 July Talking to a LA LIBRE BELGIQUE reporter, Mr Boucetta stated that "tens of thousands of tons of sophisticated arms can serve no other purpose than warfare. Africa," he added, "needs only economic, trade and cultural cooperation."

"Any military intervention in undesirable and nothing will stop us from denouncing it," he continued.

Asked about Moroccan aid to Zaire, Mr Boucetta stated that this aid has been given "within the framework of our role as an African country.... All OAU members have specific duties including the duty of defending states suffering aggression.... We will not stay in Shaba forever." He explained, "We will remain there only as long as our presence is useful. It is up to any state to defend its own sovereignty and integrity."

Referring to the tension prevailing in the Maghreb region, Mr Boucetta stated that "it is not a result of any action by Morocco; Morocco is not responsible for it.... Algiers is responsible for it," he explained.

As far as Morocco is concerned, the problem of Sahara has been solved definitely and once and for all.

In conclusion Mr Boucetta said that the main problems of that region are essentially connected with the question of underdevelopment, hence the need to "transcend the problem of borders. We remain determined to revive this idea and make the formation of one entity including the Maghreb countries possible."

SMALL NUCLEAR REACTOR PURCHASED FROM U.S. COMPANY

LD171756Y Rabat MAP in French 1430 GMT 17 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Paris, MAP--Morocco has just bought a small nuclear reactor, for the training of Moroccan research workers who intend specializing in atomic techniques, from the U.S. company General Atomic of San Diego in California. It will be in the order of 100 kilowatts and its cost is estimated to be about 4.5 million dirhams.

According to the French Daily LES ECHOS, the apparatus will start operating in 2 or 3 years time at the Atomic Studies Institute at Mohamed University's science faculty in Rabat. It will represent Morocco's first step toward the nuclear age.

SUDAN

LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY MEETS WITH VICE PRESIDENT

LD132022Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Vice President Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim this morning received Libyan Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki. In a statement to the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY, Dr at-Turayki said that at the meeting, which dealt with the efforts being made by the two countries to contribute toward solving problems in the African Continent and ways of making the African summit conference a success, there was complete agreement on all issues discussed.

Meets Other Officials

JN131540Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 13 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 13 July-- Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, first vice president and secretary general of the Sudanese Socialist Union, today received Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. In a statement after the meeting, At-Turayki said that the meeting was a good opportunity to discuss the fraternal relations between the two countries and the efforts of the two countries in solving the problems of the African Continent. The Libyan secretary said that viewpoints were identical on all the issues raised at the meeting.

The Sudanese interior minister also met with Mr at-Turayki and discussed with him the means to strengthen the fraternal relations between the two countries in the interests of the Sudanese.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR COMMUNIQUE REPORTS ATTACK ON MOROCCANS 13 July

LD171314Y Algiers APS in French 0900 GMT 17 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (liberated territories)--"The Saharan People's Liberation Army operated on 7 July 1978 against troops of the annexationist regime of Rabat, one unit of which was violently attacked by the Saharan fighters in the Seqen El Hamra region. Seventeen Moroccan soldiers were killed and as many wounded. Four military vehicles and one armored combat vehicle were destroyed, and individual and collective arms were seized from the enemy." This is stated in a communique from the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Ministry of Defense published yesterday.

The military communique points out that this operation comes after the resounding defeats inflicted upon the monarchist occupation forces since the beginning of the month in the (Zak) and El Aaiun regions.

Another military communique reports: "During the afternoon of 13 July 1978, the Saharan People's Liberation Army operated with success against the troops of occupation and aggression of the annexationist regime of Rabat quartered at Bir Enzaran, east of Dakhla.

"Bombarded for more than 2 hours by heavy artillery, the enemy troops tried to abandon their positions and were heavily engaged by our fighters, who separated and routed an entire group of soldiers of the forces of occupation, killing 14 soldiers and one sergeant and wounding many others.

WORK TO BEGIN ON SIX NEW SETTLEMENTS

TA180617Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Our correspondent reports that a decision has been made to begin work at the end of the month on the construction of permanent settlements in six places: four within the green line and two in the territories. Only if the cabinet authorizes budgets for further hundreds of millions of Israeli pounds will it be possible to carry out other settlement programs mentioned recently.

The heads of the Ministry of Construction and the directors of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department have decided to begin construction in three settlements in Galilee, one settlement in the 'Arava, one in the Jordan rift valley and one in Samaria.

Our correspondent emphasizes that this decision also has political considerations. From an examination made by our correspondent, it emerges that only groundbreaking work is being done in the Rafah approaches, in existing settlements, but in the Gaza Strip three new settlements are being built; north of Khan Yunus and between Khan Yunus and Rafah.

DEFENSE MINISTRY REDUCING SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

TA171054Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] The Ministry of Defense is cutting down on its settlement activities in Judaea and Samaria. This decision was made by Minister of Defense 'Ezer Weizman and his deputy, Modekhay Zippori, as long as 2 weeks ago, and it has no connection with the latest political events.

The decision arises from the conflicts that have occurred between the ministry's personnel and the settlers and members of Gush Emunim, who turned the Ministry of Defense into a focus of their attacks.

The Ministry of Defense will concentrate on actualizing the cabinet decisions regarding the acquisition of ownership over government lands in Judaea and Samaria and the granting of broad defense services to the various bodies in the field. The ministry is responsible, of course, for the actions taken by the military government.

In all other spheres the defense establishment will act in accordance with the request of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs.

In the past the Defense Ministry was the main stimulus for the development of the area.

TRANSFER OF AL-'ARISH TO EGYPT NOT POSSIBLE NOW

TA171148Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 17 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] President as-Sadat is demanding that Israel make a demonstrative gesture in which it will, according to him, prove that its intentions toward the peace negotiations are sincere even before the end of the year since his peace initiative and his visit to Jerusalem. He proposed that the gesture be a withdrawal from Al-'arish, the capital of Sinai, and the immediate transfer of rule over the town to the Egyptians.

As-Sadat's proposal was mentioned in the Salzburg talks. As-Sadat said that to date Israel has not reacted as it should have to his peace initiative and his visit to Jerusalem and the Knesset. According to him, all of Israel's promises have been restricted to words and in order to permit the continued existence of the peace initiative, it must also take action.

As-Sadat put forward the possibilities: one, an immediate withdrawal to the Al-'Arish-Ras Muhammad line in Sinai. Egyptian forces would not, for the moment, enter this area and the security arrangements would be discussed in negotiations between the two countries. The second possibility is the transfer of Al-'Arish to Egyptian rule. In this case the action would be taken at once. Egypt, for its part, is prepared to guarantee that "no military forces" would enter this enclave. The rule would be handed over to Egyptian civilian elements.

Egyptian officials who accompanied As-Sadat said that such a step on the part of Israel would spur the negotiations and strengthen those who support the peace initiative.

Israeli sources say that it may be that this proposal might have a chance at a more advanced stage of the talks, but not today, when the talks have not actually begun and when As-Sadat and his aides are occupied with insulting Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

TENSION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AFTER MINE INCIDENT

TA180714Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Jul 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Among UN units in southern Lebanon tension rose yesterday after two Lebanese villagers were killed and four injured when they hit terrorists' mines laid in the sector under UN control. Our correspondent in the north, Yehezqel Hame'iri, reports:

The mines were laid by terrorists on a patrol road used by the UN troops from the Norwegian units. There is no doubt that the mines were intended to harm the routine UN patrols, patrols which apparently make free movement difficult for terrorists coming from the northern sector. Thus, the terrorists are possibly also threatening to bring about the cessation of the patrols altogether. The road on which the mines were laid is a dirt road north of Ibil as-Saqy which is on the fringes of Fatah land, a sensitive area over which the terrorists are fighting for control, with its important traffic arteries. It is true that there had already been clashes between terrorists and UN personnel in this area when the terrorists tried to infiltrate the territory but were pushed back by fire from the UN units. In one of the cases a terrorist was taken prisoner and later released under pressure from the PLO command in Beirut. The mine-laying action yesterday did not harm UN personnel but villagers who happened to be there, and is arousing concern and fear among the UN personnel. These personnel regard the mine laying as a renewed attempt on the part of the terrorists to establish their hold on the territory. The Norwegian units positioned in the sector were given strict orders yesterday to take all precautionary measures for fear of a renewal of hostile actions by the terrorists.

WEST BANK INHABITANTS REQUEST TO FORM ASSOCIATION

TA180630Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Jul 78 TA

[Text] The military government has allocated 400,000 Israeli pounds to an agricultural association being established in the Hebron area at the initiative of Mustafa Dudin, a businessman active in this area and former minister in the Jordanian Government.

Correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that many mukhtars in the Hebron area have already announced that they want to join the association. Our correspondent has learned that the heads of the Al-Ja'bari family, the family of the previous mayor of Hebron, appealed to the military government and objected to the establishment of the association for fear it would harm their influence in the area.

WEST BANK INHABITANTS COMPLAIN TO MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TA180625Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Inhabitants of Al-Birah, the twin town of Ramallah, say that the military government is preventing them from building on a broad area north of the town. Our correspondent points out that roughly 2 years ago an order banning construction in another area of Al-Birah was issued, for reasons of security, and it may be that this time, too, this is the case. Tomorrow the landowners will call a press conference to publicize their claims.

MORE ON DAYAN REMARKS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

TA171142Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 17 Jul 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] This morning Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan left for the tripartite conference of the U.S., Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers. Prior to his departure, the foreign minister, speaking at a short press conference at Ben-Gurion Airport, said that the sides are coming to London without conditions and without dictates. Political correspondent Shalom Qital was at Ben-Gurion Airport: [begin recording]

The London conference will last for only 2 days, but the continuation of the negotiations--content, time and place--will be decided there.

[Dayan] In the long run my expectations are that negotiations will be conducted in London--and these will be the first over the peace plans affecting Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District--and if a framework is created in which it will be possible to continue to conduct the negotiations then a timetable should be determined as well as a programmatic framework--not only where but also on which issues the negotiations should continue. This is if things turn out well. These are the expectations.

[Qital] The foreign minister leaves for London equipped with Israel's autonomy plan. There is no mention of the proposals brought by 'Ezer Weizman over the weekend after his talks with President as-Sadat. These will be discussed by the cabinet next week.

[Dayan] First of all, the proposals brought by the defense minister are before the cabinet and as long as the cabinet has not decided positively on these proposals they are not ripe for negotiation with the Egyptians. Second--and I can say this--basically, these do not touch upon the issues to be discussed in London. Had the proposals brought by the defense minister been substantive, significant and critical with respect to the negotiations in London I would not have been given the guidelines that I have been given for the negotiations in London nor would deliberation of these proposals have been postponed until next week.

[Qital] The foreign minister was asked whether, as a result of the London conference, he would like Prime Minister Begin and President Anwar as-Sadat to meet.

[Dayan] Certainly. In Israel the prime minister has a lot of authority--not only more than the foreign minister, but also more than other ministers who meet their Egyptian colleagues. However, I feel that this is all the more so in Egypt because of the presidential regime and President as-Sadat's status. This is what I remember of the negotiations after the Yom Kippur War--in the reports that we received from Dr Kissinger then--that critical decisions that (?affect) Egypt would be taken by only As-Sadat and he would take the responsibility for such decisions. There is no doubt that the questions we face are questions of this nature. Therefore, I would certainly prefer that negotiations be conducted by the supreme authority who can make critical decisions and far-reaching changes, and in Egypt I believe that this is President as-Sadat, through consultations with whoever he sees fit--and in Israel, the prime minister--through consultation and the participation of whoever he sees fit.

[Qital] Whoever remembers the cabinet's statement yesterday which maintains that the level of negotiations between the sides be equal understands the significance of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's remarks. [end recording]

'LIMITED OPTIONS' IDEA SAID ACCEPTABLE TO EGYPT

TA170807Y Jerusalem POST in English 17 Jul 78 pp 1, 4 TA

[By David Landau]

[Text] London--Egypt would agree to the "limited options" idea as a way of giving the Palestinians' political self-expression and yet ensuring that they did not set up an irredentist, pro-Soviet state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The "limited options" formula, proposed earlier this year by the U.S., would give the Palestinians, at the end of a transitional period, the choice of linkage to Jordan, linkage to Israel, or the continuation of Israeli occupation. The assumption is that they would choose linkage to Jordan.

Egypt is confident that Egypt itself, Saudi Arabia, Israel and particularly Jordan would together exert sufficient influence on the West Bank and Gaza to ensure that a Palestinian political entity there linked to Jordan, would always be moderate and pro-Western.

This position, though never formally declared by Cairo, was expounded to the Jerusalem POST in private conversations last week with top Egyptian policymakers who were vacationing with President Anwar as-Sadat at the Austrian resort of Fuschl.

The policymakers pointed out, too, that Egypt has in effect dropped any specific mention of the PLO--even in its hardline six-point plan for the West Bank and Gaza. They said that in practice the PLO would refuse to cooperate in the Jordan-linked solution which they envisage, and that King Husayn had proven his ability to deal firmly with Palestinian extremism in 1970.

Unfortunately, these policymakers said that Egypt could not at this stage, both for tactical reasons and because of inter-Arab considerations, come out publicly with this position on the Palestinians. But they stressed that Israel--and especially Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman--was fully aware of it.

The same applied to Egypt's readiness--clearly indicated by As-Sadat in his interview with the POST published yesterday--to countenance an Israeli strategic presence on the West Bank. This is not official policy, but it has been expressed in unequivocal terms to Weizman.

The real Egyptian position, then, as distinct from the declared negotiating posture, can be summed up, on the eve of the London foreign ministers' conference, as follows:

--On the Palestinians: limited independence, under strong Jordanian tutelage.

--On West Bank borders: minor changes, as foreshadowed by As-Sadat in his Vienna press conference last week.

--On security: demilitarization, electronic sensors, third party observers, and some continued IDF presence.

--On the three Sinai airfields: an arrangement enabling Israel to keep two of them for some considerable time into the future (possibly "until such time as there is peace between Israel and all the Arab states").

Egypt remains firm, however, in opposing any sizable changes in the pre-1967 West Bank border and in opposing Israel's self-rule plan, which it sees as designed to perpetuate the Israeli occupation.

It also demands the total evacuation of Sinai (barring the two airfields), and flatly objects to Israel's desire to keep the Rafah approaches settlements "under IDF protection."

On "the nature of the peace," As-Sadat has reiterated pointedly these past few days that his original pledge, given in Jerusalem, to establish fully normalized relations with Israel, remains valid.

The Egyptians feel that this position ought to commend itself to the "moderates" in Israel--and they certainly appear to include 'Ezer Weizman within this definition.

Deputy Premier Muhammad Hasan at-Tuhami told the POST specifically on Friday that he felt Egypt could conclude a settlement with Weizman. "Not a deal," he said, "because that implies bargaining. But an agreement, in which both sides would obtain their rights."

As-Sadat's insistent emphasis that he has "cleared his conscience" by meeting with Weizman, and with Labour leader Shim'on Peres last week, appears to mean that if the peace talks collapse he will be able to cite the above positions, which he adopted in meetings with them, as evidence of what he considers impressive Egyptian moderation.

As-Sadat recently referred to July 23 as a date on which a major development might be announced. He has also spoken of next October, which marks the end of Egypt's commitment to renew the UNEF peacekeeping mandate in Sinai, as a watershed.

Egyptian officials carefully disclaim any intention of interfering in Israel's internal affairs. But At-Tuhami noted significantly that if Weizman should decide to challenge Begin openly he ought to confer with As-Sadat once again first--an indication that As-Sadat would have at least a little more to offer if that could help Weizman in a public showdown.

At-Tuhami and other key officials show a certain respect for Begin, despite what they consider the premier's intransigence. But they express open dislike for Dayan. "He is just a propagandist," the Egyptian deputy premier said of the foreign minister. "He rehearses barren formulae. He does not represent Israel's interests well. Rather, he looks after his own interests."

Al-Tuhami and other officials expressed the fear that Dayan would "carry on running rings round us" at tomorrow's conference here in England.

Most of the officials who spoke with the POST had accompanied As-Sadat on his visit to Jerusalem, and for many of them that experience is still a vivid and cataclysmic memory. One close aide to the president said he did not believe that the Begin-Dayan line truly represented the yearning for peace that he had observed in the country as a whole.

The officials say their disillusionment with Dayan set in after the Jerusalem and Ismailia summits.

WEIZMAN GOT NO PROPOSAL ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

TA171109Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 17 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Y. Tirah]

[Text] There is no truth in the report that at his talks in Salzburg Minister of Defense 'Ezer Weizman was given an Egyptian proposal for a declaration of principles and other promises, such as an Egyptian agreement to an Israeli military presence in Judaea and Samaria. The HA'AREZ correspondent learned this from the most authorized sources.

The reports published over the last few days in the communications media came from an interview by the Jerusalem POST correspondent with President as-Sadat and Deputy Prime Minister at-Tuhami. The Jerusalem sources said that there was no truth in these reports. It is true that Mr Weizman did bring with him several Egyptian proposals, but they have nothing to do with the contents of the London conference debates. The Jerusalem sources refused to reveal what the Egyptian proposals were that Mr Weizman brought with him, but it appears that they are more concerned with the conduct of the continuation of the negotiations after the London conference, either openly by joint committees or by quiet political activity with no immediate publicity.

On the basis of information which has recently reached Jerusalem, either through Mr Weizman's report or through other channels, several political sources here think that excess optimism should be avoided with regard to the fact that it seems as though the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations are about to get out of the deadlock and have been given a new impetus. All the reports about this, including the assumption that President as-Sadat is showing moderation, do not coincide with reality. Other sources in Jerusalem are more optimistic and they think that the contacts with Egypt will continue after the London conference with the aim of finally reaching points of agreement.

DAVAR DISCUSSES STRUGGLE TO OUST WEIZMAN FROM CABINET

TA171030Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Jul 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Text] The criticism heard from several ministers at yesterday's cabinet session about Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman because of his trip to Salzburg for a meeting with As-Sadat is nothing more than a part of the struggle being carried on with the aim of bringing about the resignation of the defense minister, or his dismissal by Prime Minister Menahem Begin. This is one of the evaluations of the circles following developments in this sphere.

The defense minister's critics have their own candidate for the post of minister of defense if Weizman resigns: Minister of Agriculture Ari'el Sharon.

'Ezer Weizman has extremely shocked by the criticism leveled at him yesterday because his trip was made with the approval of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, and with the authorization and best wishes of Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. In his talks with the president of Egypt, Weizman did not deviate from the directives he had been given and he did not put forward any new programs or proposals.

The minister of defense thinks that there was a point to holding the debate on the proposals he brought with him from his meeting in Salzburg yesterday and not waiting until next week, in view of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's impending trip to the London conference.

It appears that the declarations by the president of Egypt and his deputy, At-Tuhami, in interviews they gave to the press at the end of last week, in which they criticized Prime Minister Menahem Begin, did not contribute toward creating a good atmosphere for the holding of a debate at yesterday's cabinet session. In this connection it should be pointed out that the defense minister stressed, in his talks with the president of Egypt, that any meeting with him and negotiations in the name of Israel must be held with the agreement and approval of Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

As for his refusal to inform the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday, it is reported that the minister of defense explained this move by the fact that no debate had yet been held in the cabinet on the proposals he had brought with him and so there was no point in giving a detailed report to the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

After yesterday's cabinet session, the defense minister attended a rally of air force officers in the framework of the air force day events, and held discussions with the chief of staff and senior officers on issues which had been on last week's agenda and the debate of which had been postponed because of his trip to Salzburg. Because of this crowded agenda the defense minister did not attend the meeting of the Herut Movement center.

PRESS CONTINUES TO FEATURE EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS' VIEWS

'Reliable' Sources Comment

TA141509Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Jul 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Tamar Golan and Menahem Oberbaum in Salzburg]

[Excerpt] "It is very important to note the fact that President Anwar as-Sadat talked with Minister 'Ezer Weizman for 3 and 1/2 hours; nevertheless, do not underestimate the value of the future meeting in London." This was what Egypt's war minister, 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, said yesterday to MA'ARIV.

The fact of the matter is that senior Egyptian circles attribute to the meeting even greater significance than they do to the impending tripartite talks in London. However, no one is prepared to say this officially. First, because they do not want to cause "a confrontation" with the United States (which is the patron of the foreign ministers' parley in London) and secondly, it is clear to everyone that they prefer to conduct the negotiations only with Minister 'Ezer Weizman and not with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

At this stage they emphasize that the meeting had been prepared through direct negotiations "and without mediators." A reliable source told MA'ARIV that Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky had no part in organizing the meeting and he had only been told about it several days ago because he was the prime minister of the host country. The same source emphasized that there was no connection between the talks Weizman held there and the As-Sadat-Peres meeting in Vienna.

"Shim'on Peres only knew about 'Ezer Weizman's coming to Salzburg yesterday," the source remarked. The Egyptians, the Austrians and the Israelis are each trying to convince [the world] that Weizman's coming had no connection with any proposals or message passed by Prime Minister Menahem Begin through Shim'on Peres after the Vienna talks. They say that Shim'on Peres did not pass any message from Menahem Begin to As-Sadat. In other words, here there is an attempt to separate the two meetings. However, not everybody agrees to such an attempt.

General al-Jamasi has already met with his Israeli counterpart a dozen times. He told MA'ARIV: "It is always a profound experience." 'Ezer Weizman, too, told MA'ARIV close to midnight following another face-to-face talk with his Egyptian counterpart: "Between us there exists a very special relationship and that is important."

Egyptian General al-Majdub (the chairman of the Egyptian Military Committee) who arrived here yesterday together with War Minister al-Jamasi, said: "As far as we are connected, the connection exists, the line is open and the rapprochement works." Al-Majdub spent the evening with his longtime friend Maj Gen Avraham Tamir and the two told us at the end of the meeting that even if they have a lot to argue about, there are also many points over which "they have reached an agreement."

Again and again the phrases "direct talks," "direct negotiations," "contacts which continue constantly in order to strengthen the existing relationship between Ministers al-Jamasi and Weizman" were heard. However, the following was immediately added: "This does not mean that these talks should come instead of the tripartite meeting in London."

A senior Egyptian personality remarked: "We do not know what will happen in London, and it is therefore more important that this alternative remain open." Perhaps for this reason the Egyptian spokesman, Sa'd Zaghlul Nassar, announced yesterday: "Another meeting between President as-Sadat and Minister Weizman will soon take place in Alexandria" (here the spokesman slipped and said 'Begin and Weizman will come to Alexandria.' Only later did he correct himself with embarrassment and say that only Weizman would come).

The spokesman refused to say when such a meeting would take place. However, a senior member of the Israeli delegation told MA'ARIV that "it makes no sense for Weizman to go to Alexandria immediately, before Monday, the day on which the tripartite London meeting is to begin." That is, the idea is that Alexandria could be a substitute for London if the London talks should fail.

As for the content of the issues discussed, all parties remain totally silent and even refuse to say if they were optimistic following yesterday's marathon talks.

It was nevertheless reported by an Egyptian source that the talks, which touched upon many issues, focused on three major points: finding solutions acceptable to both parties concerning the interim period in Judaea and Samaria; accepting the principle of an Israeli military presence in the territories for defense purposes; and defining the Palestinian issue. On the other hand, what had apparently not been discussed at length was the issue of Sinai, on which the positions are known and which "does not constitute a real problem."

Israeli circles received the impression that on the Palestinian issue there was still a marked distance between the parties' positions--despite the fact that it seemed to them that the Egyptians were not demanding the establishment of a Palestinian state--even though they received the clarification that the Egyptians accepted the principle of an Israeli military presence in the West Bank.

At-Tuhami Comments

TA161505Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Tamar Golan]

[Text] "Moshe Dayan told me: You can take all of the Sinai. It is all yours." This is what Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Hasan at-Tuhami told me on Friday afternoon, an hour after President Anwar as-Sadat and his entourage left Salzburg on their way back to Cairo.

The Egyptian deputy prime minister referred in these words to the discussion recently held in Israel--in the press and in the Knesset--concerning things that Dayan has or has not promised the Egyptian minister in their secret meeting.

At-Tuhami refused to say even one word on the circumstances under which that meeting had taken place or about its date and place (as will be recalled, on various occasions it had been claimed that the meeting took place in Morocco and that it was that meeting that paved the way for As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem). However, with regard to Dayan's promise, the Egyptian deputy prime minister was insistent and in reply to my question as to whether I was allowed to publish his argument, he expressly emphasized: "Yes, you may publish it in my name," and added: "one must tell the truth, even if it is bitter." It emerged from his tone of voice that Dayan--who was his partner in that important talk--no longer seemed to him reliable or consistent.

The argument that Dayan has promised the Egyptians all of the Sinai was raised at the time by "the defense minister's associates," and Dayan referred to that accusation in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee and said that never in his talks with At-Tuhami did he mention the airfields.

DIFFERING MILITARY VIEWS ON AIRCRAFT DEAL SEEN

TA171305Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Jul 78 pp 3, 7 TA

[Eli Feingersch commentary]

[Text] Among the other reactions to the package deal on supplying fighter aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Israel, its military significance was underlined by two basically differing and opposing views.

The two approaches are headed by two commanders who, in the view of everyone, are known not only for the great, and possibly exaggerated, amount of frankness in their public statements, but also for their great expertise in the complicated military problems of the Middle East.

The previous chief of staff, Reserve Lt Gen Motta Gur, is prepared to "concede" the aircraft arriving in Israel as a result of the arms agreement signed even before the revelation of the latest U.S. aircraft deal, if only so as not to agree to the substance and contents of the deal itself. The current minister of defense, Reserve Maj Gen 'Ezer Weizman, as opposed to this, thinks that instead of investing in efforts which are "hopeless in advance" to cancel the deal, we should think of suitable tactical solutions to neutralize its operational significance.

Like many others, both commanders were surprised at the wily U.S. deal which, even in the accepted concepts of diplomatic rules of the game, which are, as is known, not marked by honesty and straightforwardness, was extraordinary in its vulgarity. They were certainly also united in the view that in general and in principle we should aim at a cancellation of the deal, but while Gur is prepared to "sacrifice" "our" aircraft for this objective, Weizman is trying to gain military and political benefits from it.

From the political viewpoint, Weizman is taking into account the total of the geopolitical elements at work in the area. Standing at the center of matters, of course, are the national and important interests of two powers which, to an increasingly large degree, determine the future of the area. The United States, with its great military means and advanced technology, needs sources of energy as the breath of life for its industry and its geopolitical status, as a proof of its global power; and wealthy Saudi Arabia which controls the sources of the energy, needs military defense as a political backing for the continued existence of the current regime. The U.S. claim that Saudi Arabia needs many and advanced aircraft in order to forestall defined enemies is in fact confirmed by the regular military events within the African continent in all its parts and most of its states. It is against this background that the view of the defense minister, which was expressed at the beginning of the talk about the package deal, should be understood: it is impossible to block the supply of aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

A forced reconciliation with this unpalatable verdict would be likely to come across as a desirable "planned integration" into the U.S.-Arab regional lineup which certainly has in its favor far-reaching political and security benefits.

In the position of Gur, too, there is a clear political intention which is mainly restricted to matters of political honor and prestige but which altogether ignores the demands of reality and the great power of elements over which Israel has no control. As an example of such a narrow and simplistic approach, one can see the spontaneous Israeli reaction which, after the emergency recruitment of the Jewish lobby and its friends in the U.S. Senate, almost caused open and grave confrontation with the national and vital interests of the United States. Israel's enemies even took advantage of the general Jewish pressure to spread publicly the accusation that there was a deliberate attempt here at overthrowing President Carter, whose image was in any case at a marked low. When the great danger lying in such a confrontation was finally revealed, both sides were already well entrenched in their positions without any possibility of retreating from them by an inch. It was again the previous U.S. secretary of state, Kissinger, who, with a brilliant suggestion, solved the political "knot:" Saudi Arabia would receive the aircraft with operational restrictions as to types of ammunition and location; Israel would receive additional aircraft and concessions in the supply of other fighting equipment; and the United States also strengthened its situation in the area by a significant reinforcement of the air power of the elements belonging "naturally" to the pro-Western global lineup.

Even from the purely military viewpoint there is a significant difference in the approaches of the two commanders and in the depth of their reasoning. The differences in approach are certainly also linked with the "corps attachments" of both generals. Gur, the man of the airborne and ground forces, thinks that it is worth giving up the aircraft intended for Israel, at least up to 1980-81--the date the aircraft are to be delivered, and this, of course, with the intention of taking advantage of the time for a political struggle to cancel the package deal. Gur bases his view on the strength of the current Israeli force, which, in spite of its numerical inferiority, is superior in its fighting capability to the air forces of the Arab armies. He assumes that there will be no significant change in this balance of power. However, Gur is ignoring the fact that there is a regular supply of aircraft to Arab countries from aircraft producers in the Soviet Union, France, England, Italy and Germany. As is natural, additional advanced aircraft bring with them instructors, technicians and knowhow, which contribute a great deal to the improvement of the level of operational work. [paragraph continues]

A ground forces man also does not take sufficiently into account the "adjustment" importance of being constantly and regularly equipped with fighter aircraft. A lull in the supply of aircraft to Israel would have a bad effect on the balance of air forces. The production of the fighters in the United States lags behind the total of the additional demands and orders. It has no reason or commitment to keep aircraft for Israel in its warehouses until the latter agrees to act on its original right to procure them. From the moment of making the renewed order, years will pass before the receipt and operational absorption of the aircraft.

'Ezer Weizman, the fighter pilot, whose aerial grasp has become an integral part of his thinking, is not so panicked by the numerical violation concealed in the package deal. Weizman relies on qualitative balances of forces of the past and he builds his view on wily operational planning. Against this background, Weizman is even likely to claim that the numerical advantage foreseen for the Arabs will in the end increase the existing gap in the balance of forces to the benefit of Israel. Bad planning and inefficient operation of many aircraft on the one side and the full use of the capabilities of each and every aircraft, wise tactical planning and efficient operations on the other side, are likely to bring back the battle picture of the beginning of the 6-Day War.

Numerical inequality with the addition of aircraft to both sides is, then, likely to lead to giving an actual advantage in the balance of forces to the side discriminated against in such a deal. Any additional effort the objective of which is to lessen the number of aircraft intended for Saudi Arabia, to restrict the methods of use and their sophisticated instrumentation and guarantee political restraints and so on are likely to improve even further the forecast of the air balance of forces.

SHARON COMMENTS ON AS-SADAT'S PLAN, SETTLEMENTS

TA141323Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 14 Jul 78 pp 12-14 Weekend Supplement TA

[Amnon Barzilay interview with Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon]

[Excerpts] [Question] Is As-Sadat's plan not leading to a dead end?

[Answer] One can relieve Israel of one blemish and that is the blemish of having old-fashioned views. As-Sadat's plan--which demands a withdrawal from Gaza, Judaea and Samaria--is perhaps the most old-fashioned approach today. In my opinion, however, as long as we are talking and having contacts, the process is not blocked. I would say--and this is meant more for ourselves--any pressure inside Israel in the style of peace at once, immediately; any talk in several voices from within the cabinet; any attempt to hide under the Egyptian president's shadow; or any unnecessary praise for the so-called Egyptian moderation will, in my opinion, raise the price that Israel will have to pay.

[Question] To whom are you referring?

[Answer] Even without coordination, the United States and various circles in Israel work together. In their acts and speeches they are increasing Arab expectations and this will move not peace but rather, to my regret, war closer. In the next war, which we all hope to prevent, everyone will lose. Israel would win militarily, but it would lose many lives. The Arabs would lose the achievements of the Yom Kippur War, and they did have achievements. The United States would lose the foothold it has managed to get in the Middle East in the last few years, because one can assume with almost complete certainty that if the Arabs are defeated in the war--and that is indeed the way it would be--the Soviet influence here would not decrease but would increase and would even surpass that which it had before.

[Question] One could conclude from your words that Israel is in danger of war today.

[Answer] If there is any achievement the cabinet can today pride itself on having made it is putting the threat of war farther away. We have not yet reached peace but we have eliminated the danger. This does not mean that there is no longer a need to be prepared, but in my opinion the danger today is less than in all previous years.

[Question] All of this as a result of the initiative of As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem?

[Answer] No, thanks to the cabinet's initiative! The initiative was not As-Sadat's but Israel's. The contacts with Egypt were begun at the Israeli Cabinet's initiative, in Prime Minister Menahem Begin's meetings with the U.S. vice president and with Romanian President Nicolai Ceausescu and in the meetings of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan with high-ranking Arab representatives. After a strenuous effort the long sought-for possibility of a face-to-face talk was created. The fact that we are joining the whole world's assessment of As-Sadat's initiative and are overlooking and concealing the crucial part played by Israel is causing us a lot of damage. It makes us argue against ourselves, saying that perhaps it is we who are supposedly responding to the Egyptian initiative. The situation is in fact quite the contrary.

[Question] Who is responsible for this state of affairs?

[Answer] It grew inside Israel, first and foremost coming from the opposition. In my opinion it stems from the desire to strike the cabinet and diminish the value of the cabinet's achievements. I remember a very distinguished workers leader in Israel who, after As-Sadat's visit to Israel, made a speech in Los Angeles at a trade union convention and sent greetings to As-Sadat without saying even one word about Israel's peace initiative. All this is a result of the inability to distinguish between a national interest which concerns all of us and personal ambitions and internal political and partisan interests.

[Question] What are the chances for peace?

[Answer] I believe in our ability to reach peace in the area, and certainly peace can be reached with Egypt. I also believe that when one meets and talks it is possible to find solutions. There is no one who could compare the situation today in Israel-Egypt relations with that which prevailed during the previous 29 years. With all the existing difficulties an Israeli military delegation sits in Cairo. There is an adequate contact, we receive messages and we pass messages.

[Question] Do you believe that As-Sadat wants peace?

[Answer] At least one thing happened in Egypt. They reached the conclusion that nothing could be solved through war. In my view, As-Sadat today understands that it is impossible to solve the situation in the Middle East in any way but through peace. However, one should put the Egyptians' true desire for peace to the test. This test cannot under any circumstances come at the expense of Israel's safety and existence. There is one clear red line that must guide Israel in moving toward the Arab countries and that is Israel's capability to defend itself on its own.

In the meeting with U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale I mentioned the approach made by a group of senators to the White House about 3 months ago to stop the massacre in Indochina. [paragraph continues]

They said that since the Vietnam "peace agreement," the number of Cambodians killed has reached 1 million. I asked Mondale if any action had been taken, but he did not reply. No wonder, because the United States had done nothing and the massacre has been going on and the situation is getting worse. I mentioned to him another, closer example, Lebanon. The number of those killed in Lebanon has certainly reached 70,000-80,000 in the last 2 years. The Christian world has not said one single word. You have not said one word, let alone helped, I told Mondale. Once again he remained silent. I pointed to these examples within the framework of the question as to whether to trust As-Sadat. Neither As-Sadat nor any other leader can be in charge of Israel's security.

[Question] Can one talk about peace in terms of time?

[Answer] One must distinguish between a formal peace and a real peace in which there is no longer a danger of war. I think that a formal peace can be reached at least with Egypt, if they really want peace, within a short period of time. However, a state of real peace, a "no longer a danger of war" like the state of affairs among the Common Market countries, will be a prolonged process. This is a process of developing a system of relations the final goal of which is a pact or a confederation between Jordan, Israel and Egypt--an economic and military pact with all that entails. If we reach such a situation, one can assume that even the security requirements which Israel justly stands firm on maintaining would decrease. This would all be possible if indeed we reached a state of a pact between ourselves and the Arabs in which the Palestinian Arabs were also incorporated.

[Question] What is the red line of concessions that you have drawn for yourself?

[Answer] Israel's autonomy plan for the Eretz Yisra'el Arabs is an unsurpassedly far-reaching plan. No Arab countries, not Jordan and not Egypt when they ruled over Gaza and Judaea and Samaria, have ever proposed such a farreaching plan. No Israeli Cabinet in the last 10 years has come up with such a daring proposal. If I were a Palestinian Arab, I would have seized this plan and held on to it with both hands. This is all Israel can propose today.

[Question] What are you giving up here?

[Answer] Israel has a problem. We are being told about any concession we make: What are you giving up, something that is not yours? Here I am coming to the original sin. For 30 years neither the Israeli Cabinet nor the opposition spoke much about Judaea and Samaria being a part of Eretz Yisra'el which was captured in 1948 by Egypt, Jordan and Iraq. If we had repeatedly argued this for 30 years, it would have been easier for Israel to present its plan as a farreaching Israeli plan in which it is sacrificing something of its own. This is the real state of affairs.

[Question] Where do you see an Israeli concession here when the cabinet has no intention of getting out of Judaea and Samaria?

[Answer] It is giving up everything that belongs to it by granting self-administration. This is something the Judaea, Samaria and Gaza population has never been granted by any previous rule. The inhabitants would have the right to administer their affairs on their own, except for questions of defense which would remain in the hands of the IDF.

[Question] This is a plan that stands in total contradiction to As-Sadat's plan. How will this conflict be settled?

[Answer] That is why As-Sadat's plan is unacceptable. However, since Israel said that it is willing to discuss any plan, we will sit and discuss.

[Question] If you state a priori that As-Sadat's plan is unacceptable, what will be discussed?

[Answer] Who said one had to meet halfway? Against the farreaching Israeli plan, the Egyptians are proposing a plan for withdrawal. Does anyone believe that Israel will agree to having an Egyptian Army infiltrate into Gaza or a Jordanian one into Judaea and Samaria?

[Question] The impression is that here there is a dialog between deaf people. Israel is talking about settling Judaea and Samaria and about greater Israel. As-Sadat is presenting a plan for a total withdrawal. Where, in this situation, do you see a chance for peace when each party claims "it is all mine?"

[Answer] The cabinet has not proposed to continue to develop the territories. It has left the issue of the sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria and Gaza open. We did not propose that the autonomy plan be an interim arrangement. Israel's plan has never been discussed. The political committee ended its deliberations before it discussed the plan. Since the Arabs reject the plan outright, do you want us to place our fate in their hands? Israel and Egypt have plans, so let the two parties sit and discuss and from there a solution should emerge.

[Question] Do you not think that a more moderate cabinet headed by the Alinement would already have managed to arrive at an arrangement?

[Answer] There is no greater deceit than the idea that if Israel had accepted Resolution 242 the problems would have immediately been solved and no further questions would have been asked. The next question, after agreement on making concessions on all the fronts would have been: "What are you referring to?" Anyone who thinks that agreeing with 242 alone would give Israel the possibility of making geographical changes that would solve its security problems is deluding himself and others. When the United States talks about border alterations, it does not mean the Allon plan. They mean minor changes of a few hundred meters. Anyone who thinks that in the area given to Jordan a Palestinian country would not be established or anyone believes that he could later prevent this from coming true is deluding himself and others. What they are trying to do to Israel today is to establish a second Palestinian country in addition to Jordan.

[Question] As the chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs, how would you explain the settlement activity now underway in Judaea and Samaria?

[Answer] The cabinet has a comprehensive settlement plan which I have drawn up as part of my job as committee chairman. This plan talks about settling the various regions of Eretz Yisra'el. We are in the midst of establishing 20 settlements in the Galilee--a settlement enterprise of unprecedented scope. We are dealing with setting up additional settlement in the 'Arava, the Negev and the Golan Heights. This year, 15 settlements were established in Samaria and four others were recognized as existing settlements. They were all established in accordance with a governmental plan intended to serve Israel's security needs.

[Question] Can you list the settlements in Samaria?

[Answer] As settlements in all respects the following have been recognized: Allon-More, 'Ofra, Elqana and Ma'ale Ha'edumim. [paragraph continued]

Four Nahal footholds were established. Nahal Rehan, Ma'ale Nawal, Sal'it (which was turned into a permanent settlement) and Dahariyya. Also, the following settlements--all of them in army camps--were set up: Samur, Tapu'ah, Bet Horon, Bet El, Neve Zuf, Giv'on, Qarne Shomron, Haris (under construction but still unpopulated), Ma'ale Yeriho, Teqo'a and Shomron.

[Question] How many people are living in the Samaria settlements?

[Answer] At present there are approximately 500 families in these settlements, comprising approximately 22,000 (as published) people--excluding Qiryat Arba', Gush 'Ezyon and the Jordan River Valley settlements.

[Question] They are by and large Gush Emunim people?

[Answer] Most of them. And this is a lot, compared to the 10,000 Jews who had previously gone to live beyond the green line since the 6-Day War. In my estimation, the number of families could be doubled in the next year. If we had more financial resources, it would be possible to enlarge the settlements more substantially. We are living in a very peculiar period. We have approximately 50 settlement nuclei who want to reside in new communal settlements. This is a phenomenon that has not been known in Israel for many, long years.

[Question] Is there an intention of setting up new settlements in Samaria?

[Answer] I did not say that. The intention is to enlarge existing settlements. For example, Qarne Shomron has 40 families and within a few months it will have 150 families. Allon-More has 64 families and I believe that within a short period it will have 120 families. Everything is under construction. There are objective financial difficulties.

[Question] Do you not think that the settlements for whose establishment you are responsible have harmed the peace process?

[Answer] In no way. Unfortunately the harm done is to the idea of settlement. This was done by Jews who presented settlement as harmful to peace. Here there was a blow to national interests of the first order and a preference for narrow partisan interests. The settlement enterprise is not an obstacle to peace. However, it must be known that those who spoke about (?fake) settlement in Samaria have brought about the end of the settlement on the Golan Heights. Those who talked about castles in the air in the Sinai are responsible for stopping settlement in the Jordan River Valley.

Everything came from the opposition benches. All the settlement movements affiliated with the Labor Party, which are complaining of the cessation of settlement movement in the Golan and in the Jordan River Valley, are responsible for this situation, because as a result of narrow partisan considerations which they preferred to national considerations, they brought an end to settlement in places concerning which there was a national consensu.

[Question] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman threatened to resign if one bulldozer entered Samaria. There is, therefore, reference not only to the opposition when talking about the opinion that the settlements are damaging the negotiations.

[Answer] I would not like to refer to anyone personally. The facts are that the Samaria settlements were established in accordance with a government decision and that at present they are in the process of being expanded.

[Question] What brought you and the cabinet to set up a line of settlements 20 kms east of the green line, deep within Samaria and in the hinterland of Tulkarm, Galqilyah and other Arab settlements?

[Answer] It was common practice to believe that Israel's bottleneck, the coastal strip, was 14 kms wide (in the Sharon); in fact things are not so. Along the green line, an Arab-Israeli population is living and developing very rapidly. The largest concentrations are along the line stretching from Nahal 'Iron to Kafr Qasim: Umm El Fahm, 'Ara, 'Ar'ara, Baqa El Gharbiyya, Et Taiyiba, Et Tira, Qalansuwa, Kafr Qasim and other settlements. A population of 127,000 people lives there. This population is an integral part of the Arab population residing east of the green line in Janin, Ya'bad, Baqah Ash Sharqiyah, Shuwaykah, Tulkarm, Qalqiliyah and other places. It was artificially separated as a result of the 1949 cease-fire agreements. At that time an artificial border line was drawn, cutting through a populated area that was in fact originally one area. This split its fields of economic activity and cut off family ties among its inhabitants. If we combined the population on the two sides of the green line which no longer exists, we would get almost 300,000 people.

When we talk about peace arrangements, we are no longer talking about barbed-wire borders and mines but about open borders. In the resident of Kefar Sava's mind even today the border is Et Tira and not the green line. The Tel Mond region resident feels that the border runs right by his house and as for the inhabitant of Kefar Yona and Netanya, the border runs right by Kefar Yona and not Tulkarm. In other words, the bottleneck is not just 14 kms wide and in effect never exceeds 18 km. That is why we found it necessary to set up a strip of Jewish settlements along a line which we called the junction-line, leading from Dotan via Samur, Shomron, Qarne Shomron, Haris, Neve Zuf to Bet Horon and Giv'on. This strip was intended to give Israel's coastal strip in which the major part of the Jewish settlement in the country is concencentrated the minimal depth necessary for its existence as far as strategic defense is concerned.

RASTAKHIZ PARTY WING CALLS FOR VIGILANCE

LD171702Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 17 Jul 78 LD

[Text] In a statement issued here today, the Constructive Wing of the Rastakhiz Party called on its supporters to maintain vigilance in the face of provocations taking place in the country against the spread of legal freedoms and not to allow chaos and violence to replace democratic dialog.

With reference to recent incidents, the Constructive Wing's statement says the wing's supporters, through their activity to inform and explain throughout the country, are dutybound to help in the intellectual mobilization of the people for the further enhancing the country's political atmosphere and to struggle against elements fomenting chaos.

The wing's spokesman said: We want a free confrontation of views and ideologies on a large scale; our weapon is that of logic and reason. The constructive wing's supporters and other true supporters of legal freedoms will not allow an extremist atmosphere to develop. Those who have wittingly replaced discussion and argument by stones and clubs will have no place in Iranian society today, and those who have unwittingly been dragged into this wrong course should think again and realize that clamor and destruction cannot become a substitute for thinking and constructive action.

Analyzing the recent incidents, the Constructive Wing of the Rastakhiz Party reaches the conclusion that the destructive activities of the past few days were perpetrated by small groups who often moved from town to town and, after attacking various enterprises, fled the scene. Actions of this kind are of no importance whatsoever in the long run, but in the short run they should be taken seriously to prevent their repetition.

The use of the weapon of intimidation and fear by any body or group runs counter to the concept of an open political atmosphere which was introduced about 2 years ago with the will of the shah and which should be pursued decisively.

The Constructive Wing's statement says: Any reactionary trend aimed at delaying the further opening of the country's political atmosphere and at creating an atmosphere of intimidation and suffocation will be doomed, and it is the duty of the Constructive Wing's supporters and the Iranian people in general to wage a decisive struggle against it. There is nothing in common between those who cause chaos and anarchy and those who seek to translate in practice as far as possible legal freedoms and democratic changes in the country.

The Constructive Wing's spokesman said the wing embarked several months ago upon its logical and principled struggle against reactionary and antidemocratic trends.

AFGHANISTAN

AFGHAN-USSR HIGHER EDUCATION PROTOCOL SIGNED

LDT151824Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The protocol on cooperation in the field of higher education for a period of 5 years was concluded between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] and the USSR in Kabul today. The protocol was signed in the presence of Prof Mahmud Suma, minister of higher education; Specialist Dr 'Abdorrashid Jalili, rector of Kabul University; and certain members of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. The protocol was signed by 'Abdolqader Ashna, head of foreign relations and cultural affairs in the Ministry of Education, and by Mr Boris Titov, economic counsellor at the Soviet Embassy.

In accordance with this protocol, Soviet experts and equipment will be dispatched to Afghanistan from 1978 to 1982 in order to build a computer center in Kabul's polytechnical institute.

KABUL REPORTS ON RELEASE OF 154 PRISONERS

LDT152238Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] On the basis of the decree issued by Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, on pardoning and the reduction of prison terms, 154 prisoners were released from the general prison of Laghman Province at a ceremony held on this occasion yesterday. The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY correspondent adds that the ceremony, which was held at the Roshan Lycee, was attended by a large number of workers, farmers, officials, members of the public, the Laghman governor and the president of the Provincial Court of Laghman who gave speeches on the occasion, after which the Laghman governor set fire to the files of the released prisoners.

KABUL REPORTS ANOTHER 99 PRISONERS RELEASED

LDT152240Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Jul 78 LD

[Summary] On the basis of the decree issued by our great leader Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, on the pardoning and reduction of prison terms of the men and women prisoners in the capital and provinces, 27 prisoners were released at a ceremony held in Lagar Province, and the prison terms of another 20 prisoners have been appreciably reduced. The ceremony was attended by the first deputy minister of education who set fire to the files of the released prisoners at the end of the ceremony.

On the basis of the same decree issued by President Taraki, another 72 prisoners were pardoned and released from prison at a ceremony held in Asadabad, the center of Konar Province, yesterday. The ceremony took place in the presence of the Konar governor who closed the ceremony by setting fire to the files of the released prisoners.

BANGLADESH

HEALTH MINISTER LEAVES FOR USSR, MPR VISITS

BK171713Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 17 Jul 78 BK

[Text] As special envoy of President Ziaur Rahman the minister for health and population control, Prof Badruddozza Chowdhury, has left Dacca for a 10-day goodwill visit to the Soviet Union and Mongolia.

INDIA-BANGLADESH BORDER DEMARCATION CONFERENCE ENDS

BK151605Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The periodic consultations on border demarcation work between Bangladesh and India ended in Dacca today. The 6-day conference dealt with matters relating to the Indo-Bangladesh boundary demarcation work in Tripura and West Bengal sectors.

The Bangladesh side at the conference was led by the director general of the land record and survey, while the Indian side was led by the director of land record and surveys of West Bengal and Tripura.

COMMERCE MINISTER ON TRADE TALKS IN INDIA, SRI LANKA

BK161358Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The Bangladesh commerce minister, Mr Saifur Rahman, has said that both India and Sri Lanka have expressed their willingness to promote and enlarge their trade and economic relations with Bangladesh. He told this to newsmen on his return to Dacca this afternoon after a week-long visit to India and Sri Lanka. He said that he had discussions with the leaders of both countries on matters of bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation and exchanged views on economic and commercial relations.

In reply to a question, he said he was satisfied with the discussion on issues, particularly those relating to mutual cooperation. Mr Saifur Rahman said an Indian delegation will visit Dacca early next month to negotiate a bilateral agreement with Bangladesh to cover overland transit facility over the Indian territory for Bangladesh-Nepal trade. He said the Indian leaders also agreed to increase their purchases from Bangladesh to narrow the existing imbalance of trade between the two countries.

INDIA

LIBYA'S JALLUD ARRIVES IN DELHI ON 9-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

BK170940Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jul 78 BK

[Text] A warm and ceremonial welcome was accorded to Libyan leader 'Abd as-Salam Jallud when he arrived in New Delhi today on a 9-day state visit to this country. He was received at the airport by among others, Vice President Jatti, Prime Minister Desai and External Affairs Minister Vajpayee. Mr Jallud, who is number two in the Libyan Government and a member of the Central Secretariat of the People's Congress of Libya, drove straight to Rashtrapati Bhavan accompanied by Mr Jatti and Mr Desai. The Libyan leader will call on the vice president this afternoon.

Later, he will have talks with the prime minister. Mr Jallud will visit the Red Fort and Jama Masjid in the evening. Vice President Jatti is hosting a dinner in his honor today. During his stay in this country, the Libyan leader will visit Bombay, Hyderabad, Tiruchi, Bangalore and Pune.

Meets With Desai

BK171609Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1538 GMT 17 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The Libyan vice president, Mr 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, who arrived in New Delhi today, met the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai. Later, several ministers from both the countries also joined them.

The talks are to be continued in two groups. One will concentrate on economic, industrial, scientific and technical cooperation and take up concrete proposals. The other will discuss political affairs.

Mr Morarji Desai told the Libyan leader that India is willing to further intensify its cooperation with his country. On political issues, both the leaders expressed anxiety over the explosive situation in Africa and agreed that it will become easier if there is no external interference. Mr Jallud was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in New Delhi this morning.

Receives Support

BK180917Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Jul 78 BK

[Text] India has reiterated its support to the Arab cause for withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people. Speaking at a dinner given in honor of the visiting Libyan vice president, Mr 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, in New Delhi yesterday, the vice president, Mr B.D. Jatti, said India's stand on the West Asia issue is well-known. Mr Jatti said India is happy to cooperate with Libya in its development programs by supplying trained technical personnel. He hoped that the visit of the Libyan leader will lead to further consolidation of relations in the political, economic, cultural and technical fields.

India and Libya have a substantial and rapidly expanding economic relationship in many fields, including generation of electricity. It is likely that Bharat Heavy Electricals LTD and a Libyan enterprise will sign an agreement to form a joint company which will undertake construction of a thermal plant in Libya. An agreement has also been contemplated for an industrial framework to guide the implementation of the multisided economic cooperation between the two countries.

FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARRIVES

BK171029Y Delhi ISI in English 0928 GMT 17 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Oliver Stirn, secretary of state for foreign affairs of France, arrived in New Delhi on the morning of July 17 on a 6-day visit. He was received by Somarendra Kundu, minister of state in the Ministry of External Affairs. Among those present were the secretary (West) of the Ministry of External Affairs and the French ambassador to India.

Meets With Kundu

BK171557Y Delhi ISI in English 1446 GMT 17 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The visiting secretary of state for foreign affairs of France, Olivier Stirn, had a meeting with Minister of State for External Affairs Somarendra Kundu on July 17. The two leaders had wide-ranging discussions lasting more than 1 hour which included a survey of international relations and bilateral matters. They had very useful and amicable talks, the subjects ranging from the problem of southern Africa to nonalignment and the question of disarmament. The two leaders explained the stands of their respective countries on various international questions and affirmed their belief in the approach of narrowing the gap between the developed and developing countries.

The need for intensifying bilateral cooperation in different fields was discussed, and each side took the opportunity to stress their common interest in democracy and the rule of law. The minister of state explained to the French leader the Janata government's efforts in regard to the restoration of democracy in the country and its adherence to the principle of genuine nonalignment.

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARD NEIGHBORS UNCHANGED

BK171041Y Delhi ISI in English 0904 GMT 17 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The Government of India on July 15 reiterated that, while problems continue to arise in its pursuit of exploring avenues of friendship with its neighbours, it remained "convinced of the correctness of the policy of seeking friendly and cooperative relations with all our neighbours," report PTI.

This reiteration came in a statement issued by an official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry on a report appearing in certain section of the press that the policy of the Government of India to seek friendship with its neighbours has gone sour.

The report, the spokesman said, gave an impression of reflecting the view of the prime minister and tended to hint at the possibility of a change in the government's policy.

"This report does not reflect the policy of the government which continues to be to explore avenues of friendship with our neighbours and to settle outstanding problems through peaceful bilateral negotiations."

"While problems arise in pursuit of this objective, the government remains convinced of the correctness of their policy of seeking friendly and cooperative relations with all our neighbours," the spokesman said.

INDIA TO SUPPLY 50,000 TONS OF WHEAT TO AFGHANISTAN

BK151116Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Jul 78 BK

[Text] India is to supply 50,000 tons of wheat to Afghanistan. An agreement to this effect has been signed between the Food Corporation of India and the Afghanistan Government. The wheat will be dispatched through Pakistan by rail. Afghanistan officials have, meanwhile, arrived in India to supervise the dispatch.

DELHI PATRIOT ON U.S. HOUSE VOTE TO RELEASE URANIUM

BK171145Y Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Jul 78 p 2 BK

[Editorial: "Carrot"]

[Text] American leaders do not seem to have a very high opinion about our intelligence. Or, perhaps, they believe that our government leaders are weak men, who in the face of strong temptation can compromise their principles and national honour. Reports of the House of Representatives discussion on the release of long overdue uranium installment revealed that the 227 who voted in favour used essentially the argument that the supply to Tarapore would be like showing the carrot to the donkey. That is, it will tempt the Indian leaders to carry on the "dialogue" with the United States on nuclear controls and the nonproliferation treaty. It is worth noting that what Representative Christopher Dodd termed as an "absolute diplomatic lunacy," the supporters of the release of uranium installment believed to be a farsighted policy of maintaining "leverage" under India's nuclear policy. It may be said that the opponents of the shipment preferred to use the stick, while the proponents wished to try the carrot, at least for some more time. The carrot lobby won, and soon 7.6 tonnes of enriched uranium will enable Tarapore to recover part of its heavily reduced production capacity due to a year's delay in the supply of U.S. uranium.

The next scene may open with a judicious use of the stick. The south bloc, while giving blaring publicity to the different stages through which the release of the latest installment passed, has meaningfully underplayed the related issues which have already become urgent and are causing grave concern. The immediate problem is that of the clearance of the waste fuel, which being radioactive cannot be stored in Tarapore in large quantities. The United States should have been taking it away regularly under the agreement. It has committed a breach of trust by not doing so. Secondly, another installment of 16.7 tonnes of enriched uranium, normally due some time between April and October this year, has yet to face the tortuous stages of clearance with the ever-present possibility that the last hurdle may not be cleared before the new U.S. act comes into full force and bars all supplies to those who do not accept overall inspection or sign the nonproliferation treaty.

But merely to complain that the United States has placed us in a perilous and insecure position is to grant that anything else could be expected from it. The blame must be shared by the Indian leadership, which on its road to "genuine" nonalignment made a series of policy statements of doubtful nature. There was certainly no call for the prime minister to commit the country--even without taking Parliament or his own cabinet into confidence--against nuclear explosions even for peaceful purposes. This showed an unseemly anxiety to propitiate Washington. American friends were also informed from the UN rostrum that if nuclear powers curbed their race, nonnuclear countries might become more amenable to overall supervision. These hints were enough for Mr Carter's spokesman for nuclear issues Joseph Nye to plead before the House International Relations Committee that the "thrust" of Mr Desai's goals was "basically consistent" with the U.S. objectives on nuclear arms and that there was an overlapping of understanding on preventing both "vertical and horizontal" proliferation.

These are dangerous signs, pointing to a quiet compromise.

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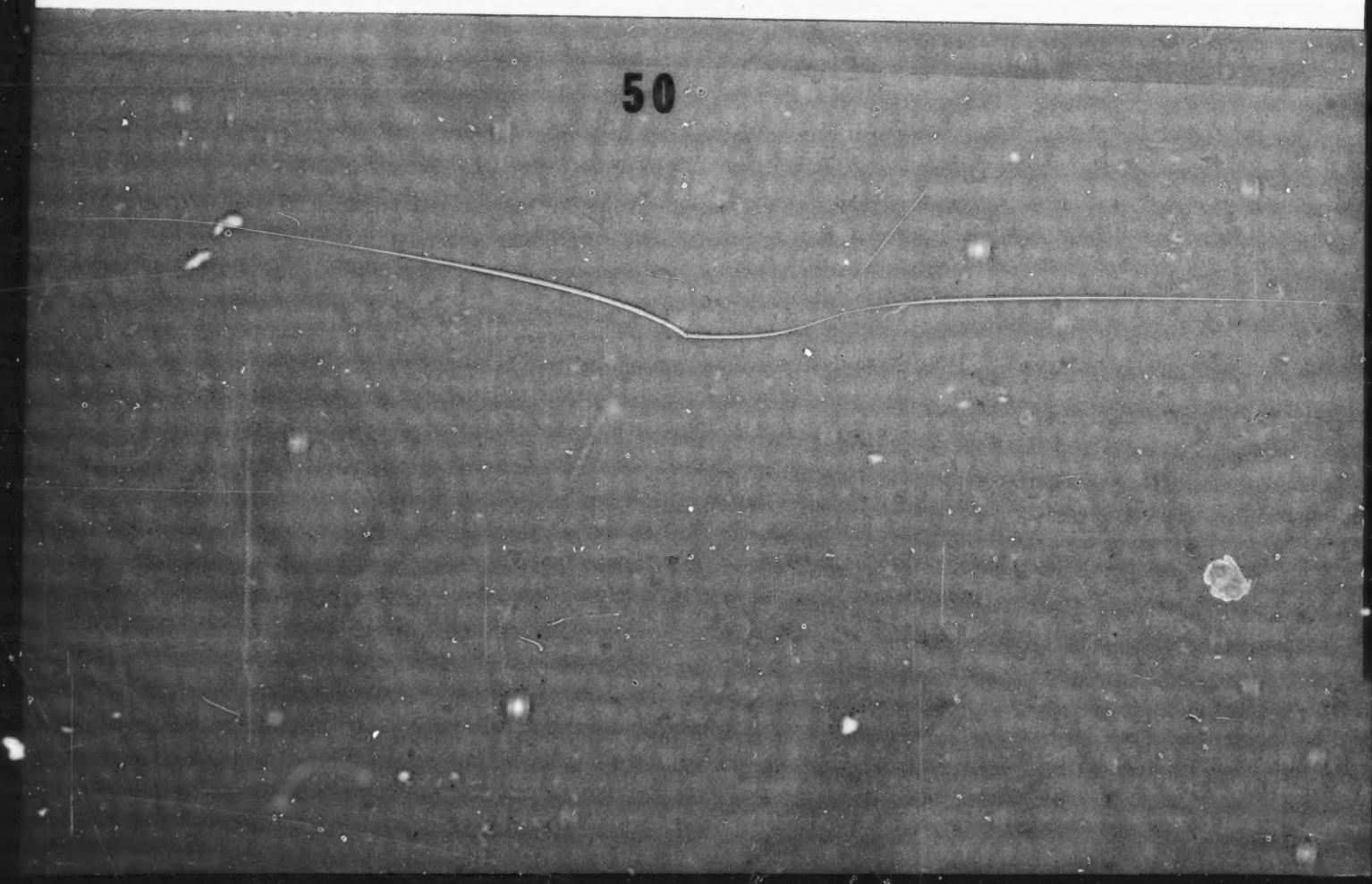
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